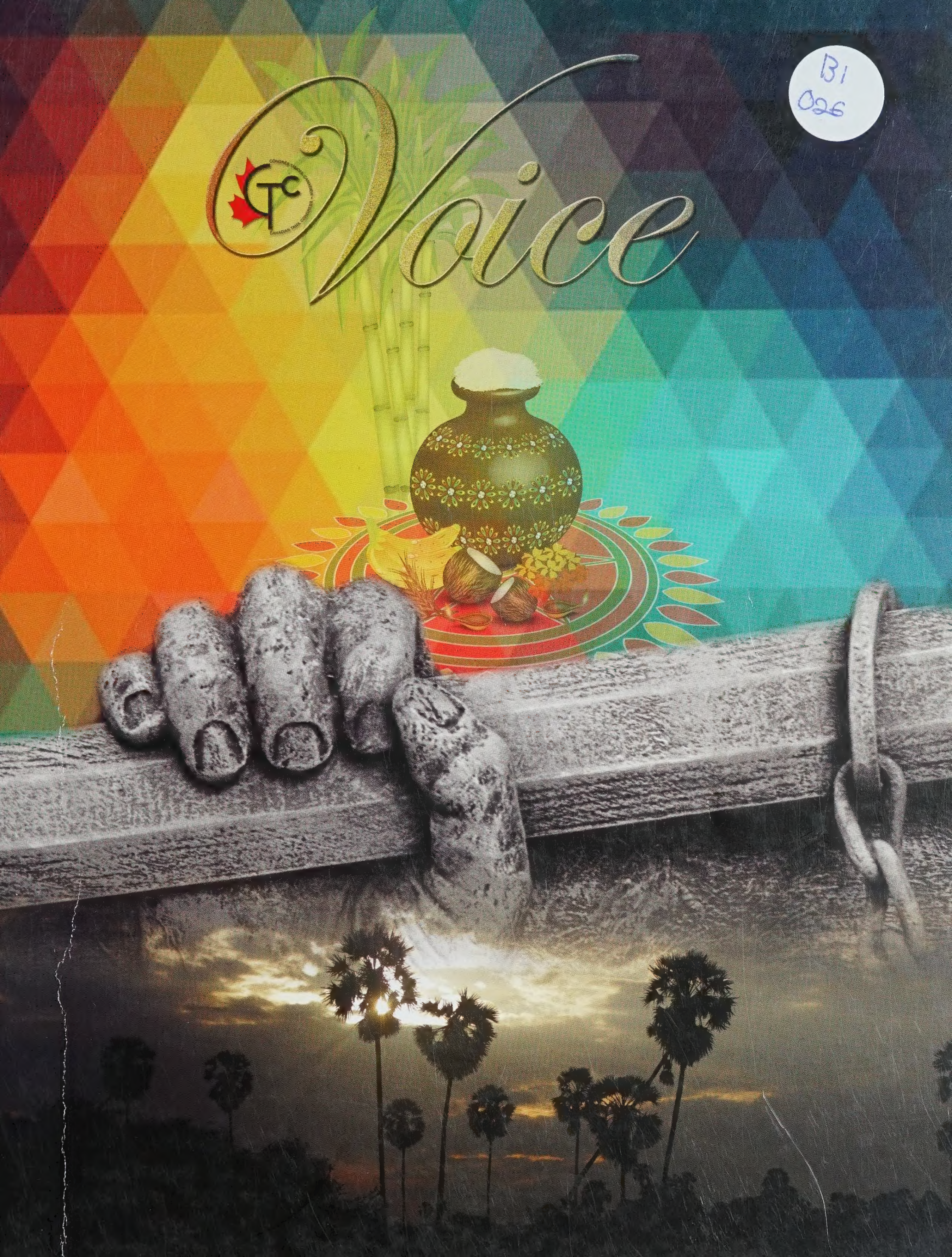

Voice

CONGRÉS TAMOUL CANADIEN • CANADIAN TAMIL CONGRESS

THE VOICE OF TAMIL CANADIANS

Thai Pongal Dinner

Saturday, January 18, 2014

Hilton Toronto Markham Suites Conference Centre

Head Office:
513 - 10 Milner Business Court
Scarborough, Ontario M1B 3C6
Tel: 416-240-0078 | Fax: 416-240-1601

www.canadiantamilcongress.ca
info@canadiantamilcongress.ca

Voice
Thai Pongal Publication 2014

Published By:
Canadian Tamil Congress

Editors:
Vani Selvarajah | Kumar Ratnam

Cover Design:
"Tomorrow, today"
Kumar Ratnam

Event Photos Courtesy Of:
imaginedigitally.com
biztha.com
Kumuthini Thavaraj

Printed At:
Print Fast

தமிழ்த் தாய் வாழ்த்து

வாழ்க நிரந்தரம் வாழ்க தமிழ்மொழி
வாழிய வாழியவே
வான மளந்தனைத்தும் அளந்திடும்
வண் மொழி வாழியவே
ஏழ் கடல் வைப்பினுந் தன் மணம் வீசி
இசை கொண்டு வாழியவே
எங்கள் தமிழ் மொழி எங்கள் தமிழ் மொழி
என்றென்றும் வாழியவே
சூழ்கலி நீங்கத் தமிழ் மொழி ஓங்கத்
துலங்குக வையகமே
தொல்லை வினைதரு தொல்லை யகன்று
சுடர்க தமிழ் நாடே
வாழ்க தமிழ் மொழி வாழ்க தமிழ் மொழி
வாழ்க தமிழ் மொழியே
வானம் அறிந்தனைத்தும் அறிந்து
வளர் மொழி வாழியவே.

Canadian National Anthem

O Canada!
Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all thy sons command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!
From far and wide,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

Inside Voice

கனடிய தமிழர் பேரவை நோக்கம் மற்றும் குறிக்கோள்கள்

கனடிய தமிழர் பேரவை ஒரு இலாப நோக்கற்ற, கனடியத் தமிழரின் குரலாய் விளங்கும் அமைப்பாகும். ரொறன்ரோவிலே தலைமைப் பணிமனையைக்கொண்ட பேரவை நாடு முழுவதும் 11 கிளைகளோடு ஒரு தேசிய அமைப்பாக விளங்குவதோடு உறுப்பினரால் தெரிவு செய்யப்பட்ட இயக்குனர் சபையையும் கொண்டதாகும்.

பக்கச் சார்பற்றுச் செயற்படும் கனடிய தமிழர் பேரவை கனடியச் சமூகச் செயற்பாடுகளில் தமிழர்களின் பங்கேற்றலை ஊக்குவித்தல், தமிழர்களின் முக்கிய பிரச்சினைகளை முதன்மைப்படுத்துதல் மற்றும் கனடிய விழுமியங்களைப் பேணுவதுடன் வேற்றினச் சமூகங்களும் அரசாங்கங்களும் ஏனைய அமைப்புகளும் தமிழர்களின் சமூக, கலாச்சார மற்றும் அரசியல் பிரச்சினைகளைப் பேசச் செய்தல் போன்றவற்றை முக்கிய நோக்கங்களாகக் கொண்டதாகும்.

கனடியத் தமிழர் பேரவையின் குறிக்கோள்கள் சில கீழ்வருமாறு:

- உள்ளூர், கோட்டம், மாநிலம், நாட்டு முதன்மை வாய்ந்த செயற்பாடுகளில் கனடியத் தமிழரது பங்கேற்றலை ஊக்குவித்தல்
- கனடியத் தமிழர் தொடர்பான சிக்கல்களை முன்னிலைப்படுத்தித் தீர்வு காண்பதற்குப் பல்வேறு மட்டக் கனடா அரசுகளோடு இணைந்து செயற்படல்
- தாயகத்திலும், உலகெங்கும் வாழும் தமிழரது சமூக, பண்பாட்டு, அரசியல் வேட்கைகளை ஏற்றுப் போற்றுதல்
- மனித உரிமை, பல்பண்பாடு, சமய-பண்பாட்டுப் பல்வண்மை, பால் ஒப்புமை, பன்மைநெறி, தொண்டுநெறி ஆகிய கனடாவின் விழுமியங்களை மேம்படுத்துதல்
- தமிழ் மொழி மற்றும் பண்பாடு பற்றிய ஆய்வு, கல்வி, பயன்பாடு என்பவற்றை மேம்படுத்துதல்
- கனடாவின் பிற இனப்பண்பாட்டுக் குழுமங்களோடு உறவு பூணுதலும் வளர்த்தலும்
- கனடா மற்றும் பன்னாட்டு அமைப்புகளோடு இணைந்து, உலகளாவிய தமிழ் மக்களின் இன்னல் போக்கலும் மனித நேய உதவி வழங்கலும்
- அனைத்து வேறுபாடுகளையும், பொறுதியின்மையையும் ஒழிப்பதற்குப் பாடுபடுதல், அனைத்துக் குழுமங்களுக்கும் ஒப்பான உரிமை மற்றும் வாய்ப்பு நாடிப் பாடுபடல், சிறப்பாக பால் ஒப்புமை நாடிப் போராடல்.

Mission and Objectives

The Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) is a nonprofit organization which serves as the voice of Tamil Canadians. Headquartered in Toronto, the CTC has chapters across the country and an elected board of directors. The non-partisan organization works as the community's spokesperson on the municipal, provincial, federal and international levels.

- Uphold Canadian values of human rights, multiculturalism, religious and cultural diversity, gender equality, pluralism and volunteerism
- Promote the participation of Tamil Canadians in activities of local, regional, provincial and national importance
- Work with various levels of Governments in Canada to highlight and resolve issues impacting Tamil Canadians
- Cooperate with Canadian and international organizations in alleviating the suffering and provide humanitarian assistance to Tamils worldwide
- Champion for equality, equality rights and equal opportunity for all diverse groups, in particular gender equality, by working towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination and intolerance
- Recognize and support the social, cultural and political aspirations of the Tamils in the island of Sri Lanka and worldwide
- Advance the research, study and usage of the Tamil language and culture
- Develop and enhance working relationships with other ethnocultural groups in Canada

Mission et Objectifs

Le congrès Tamoul canadien (CTC), est un organisme à but non lucratif qui représente la voix des Tamouls canadiens. Le siège social étant à Toronto, le CTC possède chapitres dans l'ensemble du pays ainsi qu'un conseil administratif élu. L'organisme agit comme un porte-parole non-partisan de la communauté au niveau municipal, provincial, fédéral et international.

- Confirmez les valeurs canadiennes des droits de l'homme, multiculturalisme, diversité religieuse et culturelle, égalité entre les sexes, pluralisme et volontarisme
- Favorisez la participation des canadiens tamoul dans les activités d'importance locale, régionale, provinciale et nationale
- Travaillez avec de divers niveaux des gouvernements au Canada pour accentuer et résoudre des problèmes effectuant les canadiens tamoul
- Coopérez avec des organismes canadiens et internationaux à alléger la douleur et fournissez l'assistance humanitaire aux tamoul dans le monde entier
- Champion pour l'égalité, les droits d'égalité et l'égalité des chances pour tous les groupes divers, en particulier égalité entre les sexes, en travaillant vers l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination et d'intolérance
- Identifiez et soutenez les aspirations sociales, culturelles et politiques des Tamoul sur île du Sri Lanka et dans le monde entier
- Avancez la recherche, l'étude et l'utilisation de la langue et de la culture tamoul
- Développez et augmentez les relations de travail avec d'autres groupes ethnoculturels au Canada

Thai Pongal Dinner 2014

Program

1
Lighting of Traditional Lamp

2
Canadian National Anthem and Tamil Thai Vazhthu
CFLI Students and Ms. Vaaraki Wijayaraj

3
Silent Tribute

4
Tamil Cultural Welcome Dance
Students of Nirothini Pararajasingam

5
CTC President's Address
Mr. Raj Thavaratnasingham

6
Canadian Tamil Congress Presentation
Dr. Meera Selvakone

7
Greetings:

City of Markham

Government of Ontario

Government of Canada

8
Chief Guest's Speech
Mr. Justin Trudeau
Leader, Liberal Party of Canada

9
Tribute to Nelson Mandela
CFLI Students

10
Dinner

11
Presentation of Awards

Leaders for Change Award
Prof. Craig Scot

Service Excellence Award
Uthayan Newspaper Jaffna

12
Presentation of Cheque
Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation

13
Tamil Cultural Dance Performance
Students of Nirothini Pararajasingam

14
Dessert

15
Keynote Address
Hon. C. V. K. Sivagnanam
Chairman, Northern Provincial Council

16
Vote of Thanks
Ms. Christeen Seevaratnam
Board of Director, CTC

17
Draw and Sweet Table

Master of Ceremonies
Jude Aloysius

Message from the *President*

On behalf of the Canadian Tamil Congress, I am pleased to wish you all a very Happy Thai Pongal and welcome you to our 7th Annual Dinner. Just like "Thanksgiving" is celebrated in North America, Thai Pongal marks the harvest of crops and is a time to give thanks to the sun, nature and livestock, as well as the hands that cultivate the bounty. Thai Pongal also marks the beginning of the Tamil New Year observed by 80 million Tamils around the world.

As I look back at 2013, I see a year that was simultaneously very challenging and incredibly fulfilling. We reached new heights: this past summer, for the first time in its history the Federation of Tamils of North America (FeTNA), held its 26th Convention in Toronto! The prestigious FeTNA 2013 was hosted by CTC at the Sony Center in downtown Toronto, and was attended by nearly 3000 guests from all over the world.

We also continued old traditions of volunteerism, community outreach and advocacy. In an effort to ensure a productive society that upholds Canadian and Tamil values, CTC actively encourages community service and youth participation. This year, we raised over $65,000 for the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital in our 5th annual walk-a-thon. To this date, we have raised over ¼ million dollars for 5 different charities in just 5 short years!



We are also incredibly proud of our Centre for Leadership and Innovation (CFLI), youth ranging in ages from 9 to 16, who partnered and hosted a successful tree planting event in October. Whether it may be donating blood, meeting School Boards or Police Boards to offer community support, CTC remains at the forefront of volunteerism and good citizenship in Canada.

We also continued to be concerned for the human rights of Tamils everywhere. CTC has always advocated domestically and internationally for our brothers and sisters. From meeting government officials in Ottawa, to hosting key players and newsmakers in the international human rights arena such as Frances Harrison, Callum Macrae and Benjamin Dix, CTC kept our international advocacy work front and center in 2013. We were well represented at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, Switzerland in March, June and September 2013, and will be there again in March 2014.

The work we do at CTC would not be possible without the generous support of our members, friends, advertisers, sponsors and the community at large. Each and every one of you have helped us in some way - volunteers who dedicate countless hours to complete our projects, members who generously finance us to keep the CTC engine running every month with an office and dedicated staff, the advertisers who grace our magazine every year and the sponsors who make large donations for various special projects. From our humble beginnings in 2000, CTC would not be where it is now were it not for people like you. Thank you!

As we embark upon this New Year, I see many opportunities and challenges ahead for us. If you are a member, we thank you. If you are not a member, please come and join us—and together we will continue to make a strong and positive impact on the future of our community.

On behalf everyone at the Canadian Tamil Congress, I once again wish you a very happy Thai Pongal. In Tamil there is a saying "Thai Perunthal Vali Perukkum" meaning 'if the month of January is born, then the way will be shown'. May your 'way' be a 2014 filled with happiness, good health and prosperity.

Best wishes,
Raj Thavaratnasingham
President, Canadian Tamil Congress

Message from the Governor General

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL · LE GOUVERNEUR GÉNÉRAL

It is a pleasure to send greetings to all those celebrating the Thai Pongal Festival, presented by the Canadian Tamil Congress.

The diverse society in which we live is strengthened by the many Tamil-Canadians who contribute so much to our nation. It is wonderful that we are able to share in the culture of this unique community. The efforts of the Canadian Tamil Congress ensure that the vibrant customs associated with Thai Pongal, as well as other celebrations, continue to thrive in Canada.

I wish everyone marking this day a very happy Thai Pongal.

David Johnston

January 2014



1 SUSSEX DRIVE · 1, PROMENADE SUSSEX
OTTAWA · CANADA · K1A 0A1 · WWW.GG.CA

Message from

Premier of Ontario

Ontario

Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario

January 18, 2014

A Personal Message from the Premier

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone attending the Tamil Thai Pongal Festival and Annual Gala Dinner hosted by the Canadian Tamil Congress.

As Premier of Ontario, I am proud of the tremendous cultural diversity, strength and vitality that is evident in this province. Tamil Canadians have contributed significantly to Canada's diversity and its cultural richness, and for that, I am most grateful.

I would also like to thank the Canadian Tamil Congress for promoting several initiatives across Ontario and Canada, including the Tamil Canadian Walk-A-Thon for the Canadian Cancer Society, the Tamil Canadian Blood donation drive for Canadian Blood Services, and Tamil Studies at the University of Toronto.

Tonight, as you celebrate your festival – a time for thanksgiving, new beginnings and renewal, please accept my best wishes for a memorable event and for continued success.

Kathleen Wynne

Kathleen Wynne
Premier



Minister for Multiculturalism

Minister for Multiculturalism | Ministre du Multiculturalisme

Greetings from the Honourable Jason Kenney, PC, MP

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to all those attending the Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC)'s 7th Annual Gala Dinner.

Thai Pongal is a time when many Canadians gather to honour their heritage and celebrate their achievements. This gala dinner plays a significant role in strengthening the ties among Tamil Canadians, and the work of organizations like the CTC is essential to strengthening our country's many ethnic communities and encouraging respect and understanding between all Canadians.

Canada is founded on the principles of diversity and equality of opportunity and we are all, as Canadians, proud to build together a strong, pluralistic society where everyone is able to succeed and share the benefits of our growing prosperity. As Prime Minister Harper noted: "Pluralism is the principle that binds our diverse people together. It is elemental to our civil society and economic strength."

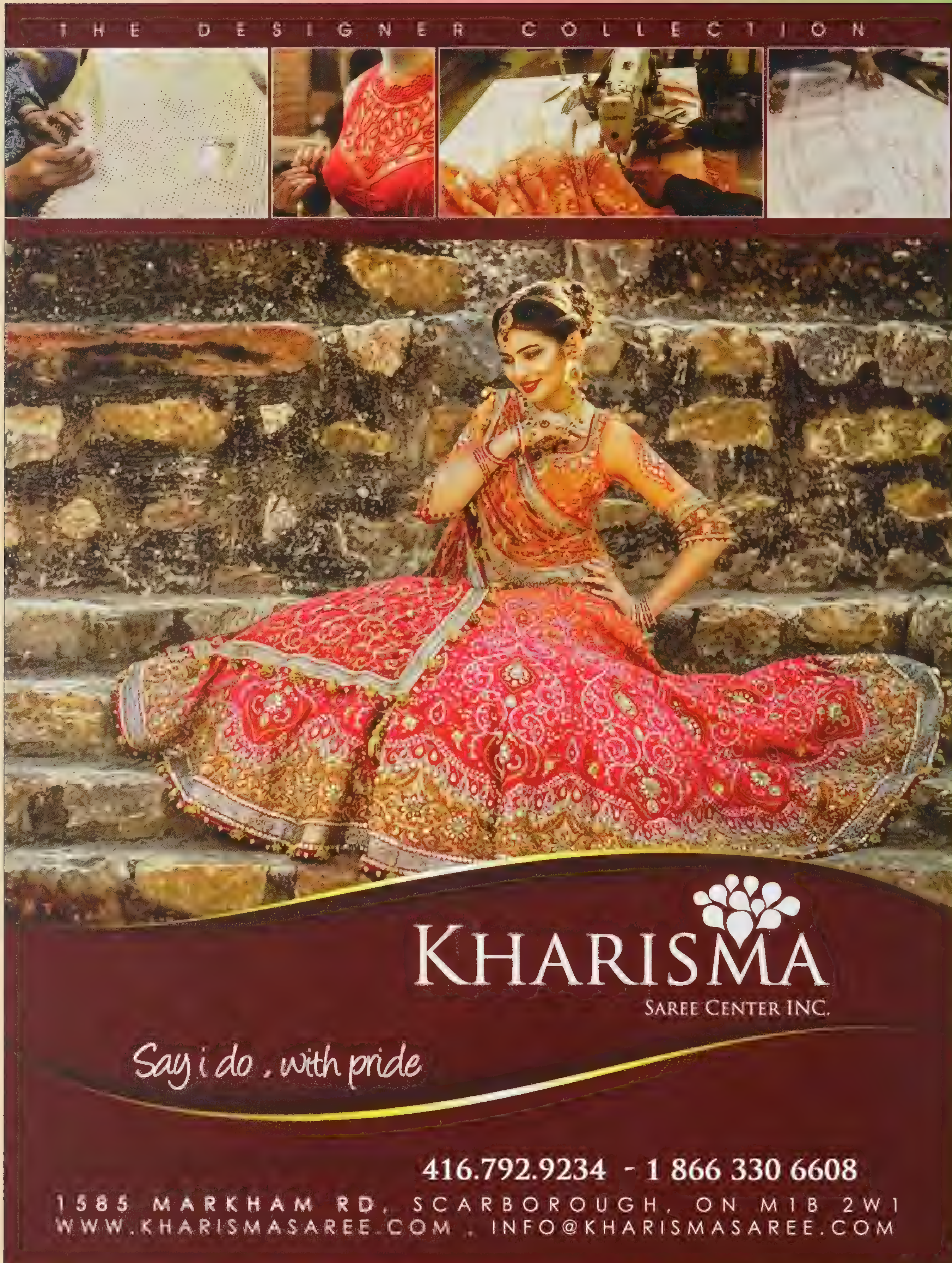
As Minister for Multiculturalism, I would like to thank the Canadian Tamil Congress for recognizing and supporting the many outstanding members of Canada's Tamil community and I wish you nothing but success in all your future endeavours. On behalf of all Canadians, I wish you a wonderful celebration and a safe and prosperous New Year!

Sincerely,



The Hon. Jason Kenney, PC, MP
Minister of Employment and Social Development and
Minister for Multiculturalism

Canada


THE DESIGNER COLLECTION
KHARISMA
SAREE CENTER INC.
Say i do . with pride
416.792.9234 - 1 866 330 6608
1585 MARKHAM RD, SCARBOROUGH, ON M1B 2W1
WWW.KHARISMASAREE.COM , INFO@KHARISMASAREE.COM

Message from the

Mayor of Markham

MARKHAM

Frank Scarpitti
Mayor

January 18, 2014

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR SCARPITTI

On behalf of Members of Council and the City of Markham, I am pleased to extend our best wishes to all those attending the 7th Annual Gala Dinner hosted by the Canadian Tamil Congress in celebration of Thai Pongal.

I had the great fortunate to celebrate Thai Pongal while in Tamil Nadu last year. This year, I am proud the share in this celebration in Markham, Canada's most diverse city.

In Markham, we welcome people from all over the world to make their home in our city, and we embrace the many cultures and traditions that strengthen our community.

This annual harvest festival is a special time to give thanks to nature and to celebrate peace, prosperity, happiness and harmony.

As Mayor, I extend best wishes to everyone for a wonderful celebration and a safe and happy 2014.

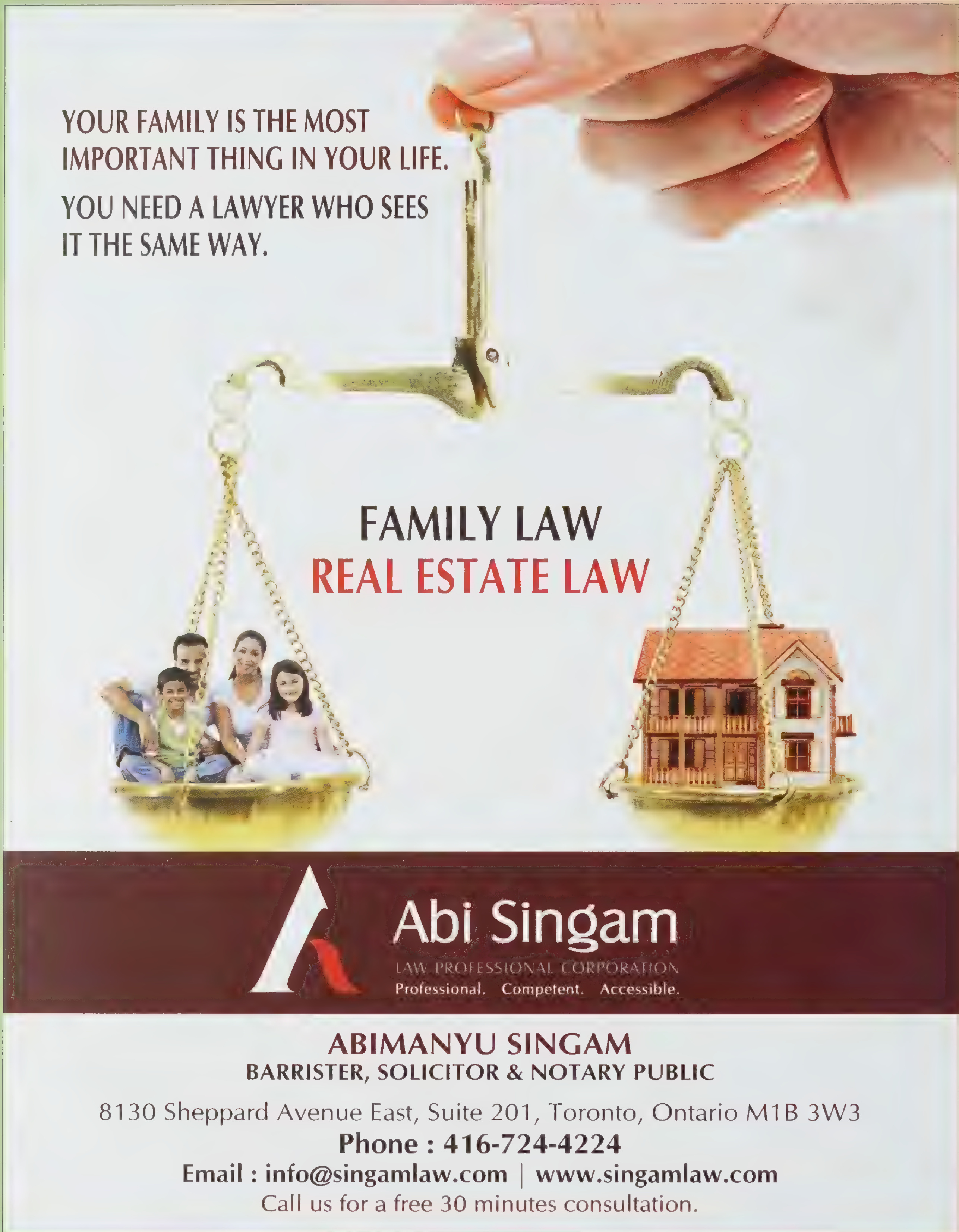
Sincerely,

Frank Scarpitti

Frank Scarpitti
Mayor

The Corporation of the City of Markham Anthony Roman Centre, 101 Town Centre Boulevard, Markham, Ontario
Tel 905 475 4872 • Fax 905 479 7775 • fscarpitti@markham ca • www markham ca





YOUR FAMILY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN YOUR LIFE.
YOU NEED A LAWYER WHO SEES IT THE SAME WAY.
FAMILY LAW
REAL ESTATE LAW
Abi Singam
LAW PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
Professional. Competent. Accessible.
ABIMANYU SINGAM
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR & NOTARY PUBLIC
8130 Sheppard Avenue East, Suite 201, Toronto, Ontario M1B 3W3
Phone : 416-724-4224
Email : info@singamlaw.com | www.singamlaw.com
Call us for a free 30 minutes consultation.

Message from Leader of the Tamil National Alliance

R Sampanthan
Member of Parliament
Leader of TNA

Sri Lanka
January 5, 2014



It gives me much pleasure to send this message of felicitations to the Canadian Tamil Congress on the occasion of their annual Pongal festival 2014. I am informed that this is an event in which Tamils participate in large numbers and which is also attended by democratically elected representatives of the three levels of government in Canada. This event provides an opportunity for close interaction between all its participants.

Canada and Sri Lanka have important common structural features. Distinct people with distinct identities, who speak different languages, populate the two countries: in the case of Canada - English and French and in the case of Sri Lanka - Tamil and Sinhala. These distinct peoples have largely inhabited different areas in their respective countries.

Substantial differences, however, exist in the structure of government in the two countries. Canada has a federal structure of government where substantial self-rule is granted to territories enabling the people who speak different languages to exercise and enjoy the right to self-determination in their respective areas they occupy within the framework of a united Canada. Both English and French languages have equality of status and the policy pertaining to such equality is rigorously and successfully enforced. Canadian citizens irrespective of whether he/she is English speaking or French speaking has a sense of belonging and feels that he/she is an equal citizen in their own country.

Very unfortunately, the position in Sri Lanka is quite different. Sri Lanka still has a unitary structure of governance. An inevitable consequence of which is that, the community, which is numerically in a majority, enjoys political supremacy. Attempts to resolve this conflict through devolution of power to provinces have proved to be inadequate, deficient, not workable and not durable. Attempts have also been made by the State to undo such devolutionary arrangements. Elections have been held to the provincial councils. The Tamil National Alliance despite these deficiencies has participated in these democratic processes and the verdicts of the Tamil people have been overwhelmingly in favour of genuine and adequate sharing of powers of governance. There is clearly a lack of willingness on the part of the State to recognize and implement the democratic verdicts of the Tamil people.

A civil war that lasted for nearly three decades came to an end a few years ago. An end to armed conflict provided an opportunity for lasting political and constitutional arrangements that could give an equal status to all its citizens. Despite the cooperation extended by the Tamil people and their democratically elected representatives, this opportunity is being frittered away by the Sri Lankan State.

Violations of International Human Rights Laws and Humanitarian Laws have been rampant. Lands belonging to the Tamil-speaking people in the Northern and Eastern provinces are being grabbed by the State and its armed forces on various pretexts. There is a deliberate policy being rigorously pursued by the State to change the demographic composition of the northern and eastern provinces and the linguistic and cultural identity of Tamil speaking areas.

It is in this background that this issue is now before the United Nations Human Rights Council. We need to work together to ensure that the Tamil people who have lived in Sri Lanka as long as anyone else or even longer are able to live as equal citizens with self respect and dignity and in security, fulfilling their legitimate political, economic, social and culture aspirations.

I wish to convey to the Canadian Tamil Congress and all participants at this event my warm regards and best wishes.

R. Sampanthan

R. Sampanthan
Member of Parliament
Leader of the Tamil National Alliance

உலகத் தமிழர் பேரவை
Global Tamil Forum

Global Tamil Forum's message to the Canadian Tamil Congress' 7th Annual Gala Dinner

Vanakkam,

On behalf of the Global Tamil Forum (GTF), I want to extend my greetings and best wishes to you all on the occasion of the Canadian Tamil Congress' (CTC) 2014 Gala Dinner. The Thai Pongol theme offers an important opportunity to reflect upon and seek to strengthen our rich Tamil culture.

I am deeply grateful to CTC and the Canadian Tamil diaspora for all the work you have done and continue to do in seeking to achieve reconciliation and peace in Sri Lanka, based on truth and justice.

As members of the Tamil diaspora, we need to do all we can to protect and support our culture, given the continuing injustices faced by so many of our brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka and the erosion of their right to express their cultural, religious, and linguistic identity. Tamil heritage in our homelands is under existential threat from the Rajapaksa regime through the process of Sinhalisation and Buddhistisation. Therefore, it is imperative that the diaspora gives voice to the plight of our brethren on the island and we must engage concertedly with governments, parliamentarians and international organisations to end these human rights violations.

In addition, 2014, and the forthcoming UN Human Rights Council Session in March in particular, will be a crucial moment to secure an independent, international inquiry, which can credibly investigate the conduct of the final months of Sri Lanka's civil war. The establishment of such a mechanism, under UN auspices, is imperative to ensure truth and justice for the tens of thousands who perished, as well as to help lead the way towards a brighter future on the island. Given Canada's strong commitment to these issues and the country's important role within the Commonwealth and on the international stage, the on-going advocacy work of CTC is crucial in this regard.

I hope you all have an enjoyable evening.

My thoughts and prayers with you all,



Rev. Dr S.J. Emmanuel
President
Global Tamil Forum

Global Tamil Forum (GTF) was established in 2009 by a number of grass-roots Tamil groups following the end of the armed conflict in Sri Lanka. It is the largest Tamil diaspora organisation with members drawn from across five continents. GTF is committed to a non-violent agenda and seeks a lasting peace in Sri Lanka based on justice, reconciliation and a negotiated political settlement.

Rev. Dr Emmanuel was ordained as a Catholic priest in Rome in 1966. He served the Sri Lankan and Asian churches for many years. He was a victim and witness to the armed conflict and war in Sri Lanka. He has worked tirelessly for the Tamil people and for a just and peaceful Sri Lanka.

Message from President & CEO of the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation

Holland Bloorview

Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation

2014 Canadian Tamil Congress Gala | Program



This past year, Holland Bloorview was the beneficiary of the fifth annual Tamil Canadian Walk-a-Thon which raised more than $65,000 for kids with disabilities. We are so grateful because these funds will directly impact the care and services our kids receive. To the dedicated volunteers, sponsors and community members who supported our cause we want to say *nandri*.

With your efforts in joining the walk, raising pledges and encouraging others to do the same – you are helping us to change the world for kids with disabilities. You will help to make possible communications technologies that enable children who are unable to speak or move to communication their needs and wants. You will help us apply our newfound understanding of the brain to advance better treatment for children with autism, cerebral palsy and acquired brain injury. Because of you, more kids and families will thrive thanks to our innovative therapies, respite programs, life skills and transitional services.

Without your support, none of this would be possible. On behalf of your Holland Bloorview family, I would like to thank the Canadian Tamil Congress and the Tamil community for being there for kids with disabilities.

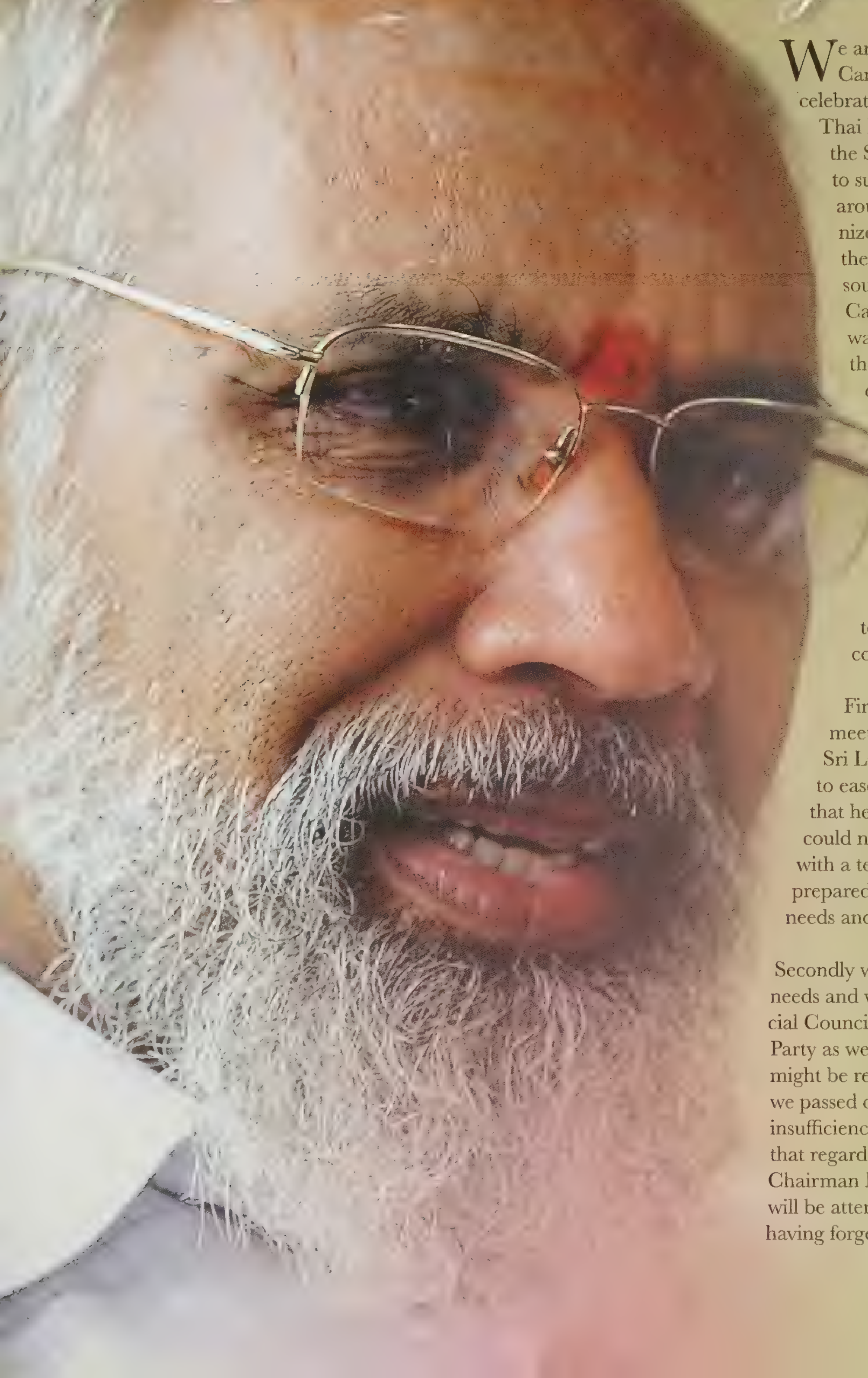
Nandri,

Tracey Bailey

Tracey Bailey
President & CEO,
Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation

Message from Chief Minister of Northern Provincial Council, Sri Lanka

Justice C.V. Wigneswaran



We are indeed happy to hear that Canadian Tamil Congress is celebrating Thai Pongal in Toronto. Thai Pongal is thanksgiving to the Sun who enabled the farmer to successfully harvest his crop around this time. It synchronizes with the beginning of the movement of the Sun southwards from the Tropic of Cancer. The journey now onwards takes the Sun towards the Tropic of Capricorn south of the Equator.

It is said among Tamils that the birth of the month of Thai ushers in new vistas and hope. We at the Northern Provincial Council are truly looking forward to a new lease of life in the coming months.

Firstly we had a constructive meeting with the President of Sri Lanka on the 2nd of January to ease out certain constrictions that held us administratively. We could now presumably function with a team of public officers prepared to recognize the People's needs and aspirations.

Secondly we are to soon identify our needs and wants from all our Provincial Council Members both governing Party as well as the Opposition. It might be remembered that recently we passed our Budget despite its many insufficiencies without a division. In that regard we are thankful to our Chairman Mr.C.V.K. Sivagnanam who will be attending your Function, for having forged a consensus among the

See page 24

Continued from page 23

ruling Party and the Opposition though the latter are few in number.

Thirdly we are in the process of exploring possibilities to engage and seek assistance from several sovereign Countries as well as INGOs to coordinate our efforts to provide alleviation to the People and their Province in need.

Fourthly we anticipate greater understanding by the Government in power towards our predicament and needs which would enable the passage of largesse from outside the Country to reach us with less red tape and delay. In this respect we have been directed towards the senior officials of the Treasury and others to work in cordiality to usher in a better future for our war affected citizenry.

Fifthly we anticipate certain changes in the Administrative set up. May be we would have a Civilian Governor to replace the former Commander of the Northern Province soon. We have brought to the notice of the President, even though we have absolutely nothing personal against the present Governor we prefer to work with a Civilian Governor. As I said elsewhere we prefer to have a Mathematics' teacher teaching Mathematics to our children rather than a Chemistry Teacher doing so! Lastly but not as a Provincial Council but as members of the larger world wide Tamil speaking population we are looking forward to the fulfillment of the Biblical saying 'Ye shall reap what you shall sow" at Geneva.

Thus we look forward to this year's Thai Pongal ushering in better times for us.

Of course Nature has not been too kind to us this season rains having failed. We might have to therefore expect difficult times ahead. Adversity helps us to join in unity at a time of calamity. Let us hope we would face all adversities with

"May this year cement a relationship of brotherhood among all sections of the Tamil speaking people oblivious of Party, caste, creed and religious differences. Unity is the need of the hour."

fortitude and courage and be joined as a Nation. We are conscious that our Tamil speaking Nation includes our brethren from the East as well as our Muslim brothers and sisters. May this year cement a relationship of brotherhood among all sections of the Tamil speaking people oblivious of Party, caste, creed and religious differences. Unity is the need of the hour. There is no doubt that infiltrations are being undertaken surreptitiously as well as openly to change the demographic pattern of the Northern Province. Unless we stand together it is a matter of time when the North would be transformed into an East to pave way for a non Tamil administration at the Provincial Council level.

In this respect the diaspora has a role to play. Apart from the financial and infra structural benefits which no doubt we do expect from all of you, we would want you to adequately educate our people on the dangers of disunity. While we stand disunited our detractors would have their opportunity to transform the Tamil speaking areas into backyards of majoritarian manipulations.

This disunity seems to be the hallmark of Tamils all over the World. We are divided into three main groups. The first have a quid pro quo attitude. 'If we help them we could get what we want', seems to be the idea. But it has not worked so far to the benefit of the community. You may get something personally for your own personal glorification, gratification and benefit. But the community will suffer.

The second carry the unfulfilled dreams of a by- gone age. The dream no doubt was comforting until we were asked to wake up. While we do not criticize their desire to continue with their dreams conscious of the fact that dreams do sometimes get fulfilled in reality, let them not openly take to task others with popular support trying to forge ahead along a different route. Gandhi and Subbash Chadra Bose come to mind. The metamorphosis of Nelson Mandela comes to mind. The second group unfortunately also are disunited among themselves which is a tragedy.

The third have taken the reality into consideration, worked out a solution possible to obtain and are treading the path of law and order not for a moment searching for devious methods and means but steadfastly holding on to what they believe is the best way for the Tamil speaking Nation. Rightly or wrongly the people have endorsed their decision. We expect the people's decision to be respected.

Your Associations should explain the need for unity at this critical stage of our political struggle. May be there could be electronic and other medias which could help in this regard. The message must reach our people both within Sri Lanka and abroad.
We are now preparing an assessment of our needs. They would need to be couched in proper technical language and prepared into Project Reports and so on. We have need for technical expertise in this regard. Your members who are adequately qualified in this regard may consider spending some time with us to help us prepare such documents. Presently we are in consultation with UN Agencies to do this work for us.

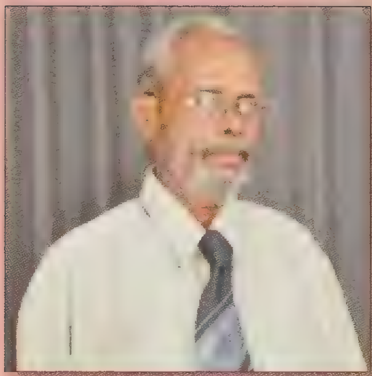
Meanwhile micro financing projects could be undertaken after identifying areas of need and wants. Many such activities are presently undertaken conscious of our past that Jaffna has had an admirable history of success in the Cooperative Sector. It is our desire to set up a Trust in this regard to coordinate activities. We are in the process of identifying persons of repute well known for their honesty and altruism.

There is much to be done. Political goals while being at the back of our minds we must nevertheless ameliorate the conditions of our people without delay. By pursuing dreams at the expense of the regeneration of our people we may be left with none in our areas to reap the benefits of such pursuits.

May I wish all of you a very happy, prosperous and contented 2014 looking forward to working in unison and collaboration in this New Year with every single one of you if not directly at least in spirit!

Justice C. V. Wigneswaran
Chief Minister
Northern Provincial Council
Sri Lanka

C. V. K. Sivagnanam



C. Velupillai Kandaiah Sivagnanam has served as a civil servant, politician and provincial councillor.

Mr. Sivagnanam was commissioner of Jaffna Municipal Council. After retirement, he contested the 2004 and 2010 parliamentary elections as one of the Tamil National Alliance's candidates in the Jaffna District.

Mr. Sivagnanam also contested the 2013 provincial council election as one of the Tamil National Alliance's candidates in Jaffna District and was elected to the Northern Provincial Council. He took his oath as provincial councillor in front of Chief Minister C. V. Wigneswaran at Veerasingam Hall in October 2013. He was elected unopposed as Chairman of the Northern Provincial Council at its inaugural meeting.


GALAW
Gary Anandasangaree & Associates
Professional Corporation
• Real Estate
• Commercial
• Family
• Corporate
• Immigration
• Wills & Estate
416 321 1100
10 Milner Business Court Suite 210 Toronto Ontario M1B 3C6



CTC in Rewind

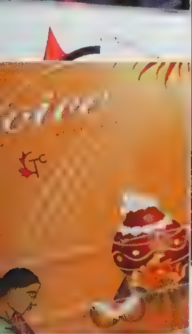


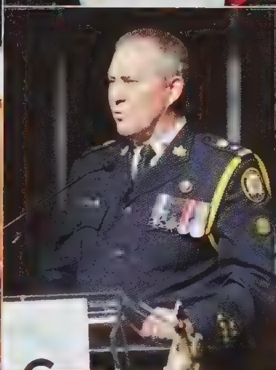
























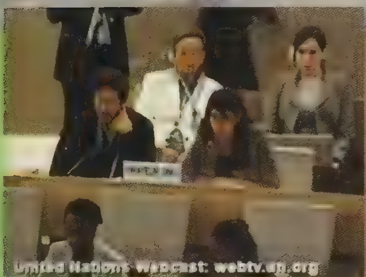
Tamil Canadian Community Celebrates Thai Pongal
January 19th, 2013 – Hilton Suites, Markham

CTC welcomed a packed house of 1,000 community members and political leaders for its 6th Annual Thai Pongal Dinner. The event brought together leaders and political representatives from the federal, provincial and municipal levels to celebrate Tamil Canadian culture and achievements within the Canadian mosaic. Sri Lanka Campaign for Peace and Justice was the recipient of the Service Excellence Award and Chief of Police, William Blair, received the Leaders for Change Award. CTC also awarded its first Living Hero Award to an individual doctor, profiled in Frances Harrison's book entitled "Still Counting the Dead". The Keynote Address by Mr. Alan Keenan was delivered via teleconference. CTC also presented a cheque for the walkathon proceeds to Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.



பாரம்பரியத்தின் அழகிற்கும் கலைநயத்திற்கும்
அழகு சேர்க்கும் எண்ணில்லா வடிவங்கள்
பிரமிக்க வைக்கும் தெரிவுகள்
கனடாவில் பிரமாண்டமாய்
அம்பிகா நகைமாடம்
தங்க நகைகள் விசேட விலையில்...
வைர நகைகள் 50% கழிவு விலையில்...
தங்க சேமிப்பு திட்டம் ஆரம்பம்...
தங்கம் என்றால் உங்கள் நினைவுக்குள்
இருக்க வேண்டிய ஒரே ஸ்தாபனம்
416 620 0008
7+1
LOCATIONS
AMBIKA JEWELLERS
Kennedy & Eglinton
2376 Eglinton Ave E
Scarborough, ON M1K 2P3
416-751 - 1364
Kennedy & Finch
3852 Finch Ave E Unit G-05
Scarborough, ON M1T 3T9
416-335-1553
Markham & Steeles
3351 Markham Rd,
Scarborough, ON M1X 0A6
416-292-6699
Middlefield & Finch
5215 Finch Ave. E #117
Scarborough ON M1S 0C2
416-754-3100
Brimley & Sheppard
4400 Sheppard Ave.E #1
Scarborough, ON M1S 5J5
416-355 - 3366
Islington & Steels
3001 Islington Ave.
North York, ON M9L 2K9
416-744-6177
Brampton
2260 Bovaird Dr. E,
Brampton, ON l65 3J5
905-789-6699
Mississauga
25 Agnes Street
(Hurontario & Dundas)
L5B 3X7





CTC Advocacy Team at the UN Human Rights Council
March, June & September 2013
United Nations, Geneva

On behalf of Lawyers Rights Watch Canada (LRWC), Gary Anandasangaree and Vani Selvarajah addressed the UN Human Rights Council during its 22nd, 23rd & 24th sessions in Geneva. CTC's Sutharsan Vasanthan and Kartiga Thavaraj also joined the international team in Geneva. Statements delivered to the Council repeatedly urged the United Nations and its member states to call for independent, international investigation into allegations of human rights violations in Sri Lanka. The advocacy team lobbied various governments and groups at the UN to advocate for the passage of the follow up Resolution on Accountability in Sri Lanka that passed in March 2013. LRWC has been actively involved in UN lobbying and advocacy efforts on the international level since May 2009.

CTC Engages With Canadian Officials
March, September, December 2013 - Ottawa

CTC directors and staff regularly meet with government officials on Parliament Hill to provide them with an update on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka. In March, September and December of 2013, CTC met with the Department of Foreign Affairs, policy advisors to the Liberals and NDPs as well as national medial outlets in Ottawa. CTC also regularly meets with foreign embassies in Ottawa. These are important connections that CTC has made and ones that we maintain on a regular basis.



Bowling & Discussion with Benjamin Dix
April 4th & 7th, 2013 – CTC, Toronto

CTC hosted a fundraising bowl-a-thon with Mr. Benjamin Dix, author and director of The Vanni Project, a fictional story grounded on real testimonies, about a Tamil family struggling to survive a vicious conflict and the rippling effects of the war in the years that followed. CTC successfully raised over $4,000 and later met with Mr. Dix, at the CTC office to learn more about his project and to raise awareness. Mr. Dix is a former UN worker stationed in Sri Lanka and he was one of the last UN workers forced to evacuate Killinochchi in 2008. He has been critical of UN's failure to protect the civilians and has been an important witness for all the UN reports on Sri Lanka since May 2009. Mr. Dix also played a key role in all three Channel 4 documentaries exposing Sri Lanka.







CTC In Rewind



CTC Launches 2013 Walkathon
April 30th, 2013 – Grand Baccus, Toronto

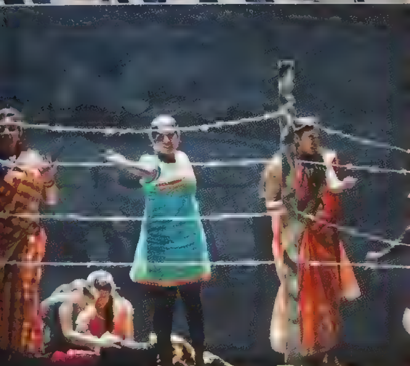
To a packed room of supporters, CTC proudly announced the recipient of its 5th Annual Tamil Canadian Walk – Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation, the world's most innovative and advanced pediatric rehabilitation hospital. This year, we welcomed a very special supporter, the law firm of Himelfarb Proszanski LLP, who generously signed on as the main sponsor of the walk. CTC's announcement featured 10 year old Emma, a Holland Bloorview Ambassador who gave a moving speech about her remarkable recovery at Holland Bloorview after a life-threatening disease left her unable to move or speak.

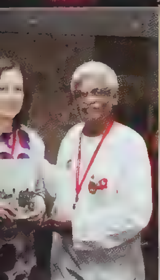
Youth Leadership Program Completes Another Successful Term
May 5th & December 21st, 2013

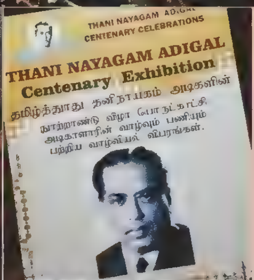
The Centre for Leadership and Innovation, a brainchild of the Canadian Tamil Congress hosted an end of term celebratory event of their Youth Leadership Program. The fun filled event was chaired and run by our youth and included speeches, presentations, debates, a play and for the first time, a short film made entirely by the youngsters.

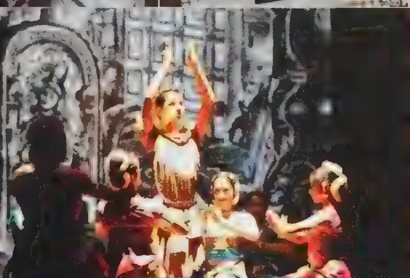

SASI
KUNARATNAM
Sasi Kunaratnam
Real Estate Broker
RE/MAX
Vision Realty Inc., Brokerage
Independently Owned and Operated
MLS MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE
REALTOR
www.futurecondo.ca
C 416-358-8638
T 416-321-2228
• Residential & Commercial Real Estate!
• Buying/Selling Resale Homes & Brand New Condo Investments!
www.SasiKunaratnam.com
homes@sasikunaratnam.com
Hall of Fame Award
2011
Platinum Club Award
2008
100% Club Award
2006 - 2013

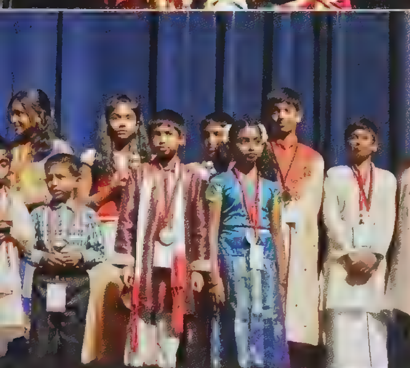
















CTC Attends Berlin Conference
June 21-23rd, 2013 – Berlin, Germany

Canadian Tamil Congress President, Raj Thavaratnasingham, attended a conference in Berlin, Germany to work on a Common Framework Agreement under the Global Tamils Forum umbrella. The team is working with an independent organization to come up with alternative constitutional mechanisms – in collaboration with civil society in Sri Lanka, the TNA and various Diaspora organizations.

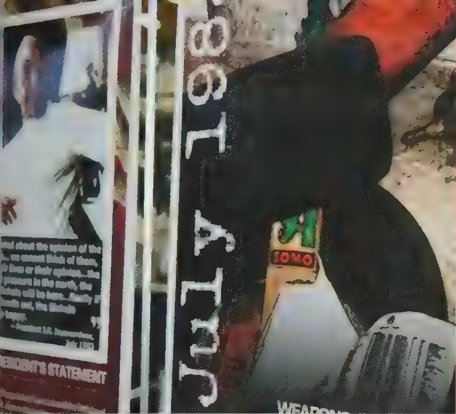
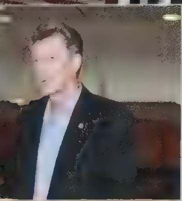
CTC's 6th Annual Blood Donation Drive - July 2013

The Canadian Tamil Congress, for the sixth year in a row, partnered with Canadian Blood Services to host a blood donation drive with several clinics open throughout the month. Tamil Canadians were urged to be donors for a very worthy cause under group name Tamil Canadians and group ID code CANA009345. Through the bloodshed of our loved ones during Sri Lanka's civil war, CTC recognizes the dire need of such services and encourages Tamil Canadians to give back to our Canadian community.

CTC Hosts Prestigious 26th Annual FeTNA Convention
July 5-7th, 2013 – Toronto Sony Centre

The Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America, held its 26th Convention in Canada for the first time ever! The successful event was held downtown Toronto at the Sony Centre and brought together over 3000 North American Tamils for two days of cultural, linguistic and educational events, including performances, workshops and networking sessions. This year, FeTNA commemorated the birth centenary of scholar Father Thani Nayagam with a panel discussion that covered various aspects of Rev. Thani Nayagam's vocation, scholarship and commitment to language rights. FeTNA also hosted a successful Business Forum which was attended by professionals from Canada, US, Europe & India. The day long forum included several successful Tamil entrepreneurs & professionals including Yoganathan Ratheesan, co-owner & co-founder of Lebara Group, Poornima Vijayashanker, founding engineer of mint.com and Jay Vijayan, CIO of Tesla Motors. Global Tamils Forum, in collaboration with CTC, screened No Fire Zone, which was followed by a Q&A session with Director Callum Macrae. FeTNA also featured the performance of Sivakamiyin Sabadam, choreographed by world-renowned dancer Madurai R. Muralidharan, who mentored 125 local classical dancers to stage the dance. Singers Mano and Charulatha Mani along with Supersingers, Sathyaprakash, Pragathi and Saiesan performed with the AGNI musical group for a festive evening of music and dance.











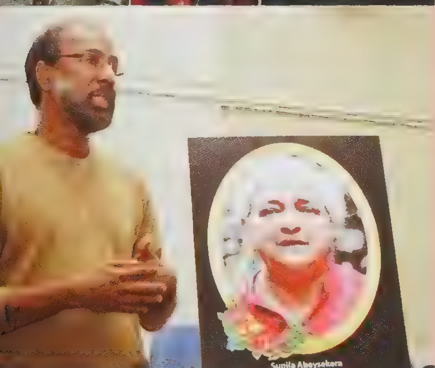

CTC Remembers Black July '83
July 25th, 2013 – Scarborough Civic Centre

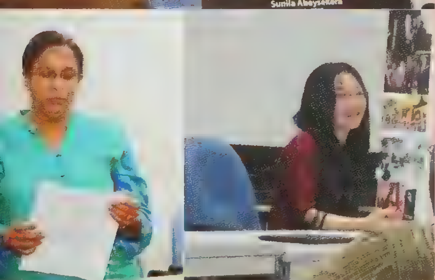
30 years later, we still remember. As part of our Black July Remembrance day, Canadian Tamil Congress invited members, supporters and the public to an exhibit at the Scarborough Civic Centre which showcased the testimony of Black July survivors. CTC encouraged Tamil Canadians to share stories and feelings about the riots on their website and social media. The Black July riots that took place in 1983 caused extreme hardship for the Tamils and marked the mass exodus of Tamils from Sri Lanka. May we always remember.

Youth Leadership Program's DoCs-DiNe-DaNcE!
July 28th, 2013 – New Jasmine Banquet Hall

The Centre for Leadership and Innovation's Youth Leadership Program hosted its first dinner and dance event. The event premiered short documentary movies made by 35 YLP members via an experimental project to surface social issues through visual media. In addition, the event had a keynote address, awards ceremony and fine dining followed by a dance for youth and adults. The event attracted several supporters who helped build youth empowerment and leadership.









CTC Engages TNA
August 10th & November 3rd, 2013 – Toronto

CTC applauded TNA's chief ministerial candidate, retired Justice C.V. Wigneswaran. We worked closely with and met with leaders to ensure that Tamils in Sri Lanka took part in the Northern Provincial Council Elections. CTC also met with TNA Leader Mr. Sampanthan and Mr. Sumanthiran and hosted a dinner to raise funds for the Northern Provincial Elections campaign. The meetings also gave CTC members an opportunity to listen to the TNA's ideas and get clarifications in a private and confidential setting.

CTC Hosts Prof. Kaori Hatsumi & Rev. Dr. S.J. Emmanuel
September 4th, 2013 – Scarborough Civic Centre

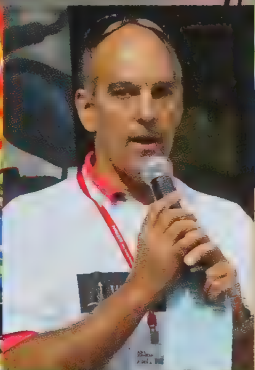
CTC hosted a very important discussion with Dr. Kaori Hatsumi and Rev. Dr. S.J. Emmanuel on the anthropological and social justice perspectives on the end of Eelam war and its aftermath. Dr. Hatsumi is a visiting assistant professor of anthrhopology in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at Kalamazoo College. In her PhD dissertation, she explored the experiences of terror and healing among Tamil Catholic victims of civil war. Rev. Emmanuel is the President of the Global Tamils Forum and has actively been involved in advocating for the rights of Tamils.

CTC Pays Tribute to a Dear Friend – Sunila Abeyasekara
September 23rd, 2013 – Scarborough Civic Centre

On September 9th, we lost a passionate, tireless and courageous human rights activist. Sunila passed away after fighting a brave battle with cancer. Sunila was a dear friend of CTC and all Tamils worldwide – she spent nearly four decades of her life documenting human rights violations in Sri Lanka. Over the years, she received many awards for her work, most notably, the UN Human Rights Award in 1999. CTC gathered to mourn the loss of one of South Asia's most distinguished human rights activists.











CTC Walks in Support of Holland Bloorview to raise $65,000.00 dollars!
September 15th, 2013 – Thomson Memorial Park

Thousands of Tamil Canadians and friends joined the 2013 Tamil Canadian walk-a-thon in support of Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. The annual 5 km walk also featured a barbecue and games for children and adults. Holland Bloorview is the leader in care, research and education with kids with disabilities and their families. The Hospital is committed to helping kids with even the most severe disabilities live ordinary and sometimes, extraordinary lives – just like other kids! CTC was proud to have supported such a worthy cause and to this date, CTC has raised over ¼ million dollars for 5 different charities!

























Screening of "The Ambassador of Tamil"
September 29th, 2013 – Carlton Cinema

The documentary film featuring the life and contributions of Thani Nayagam Adigal, produced by CTC, was selected for screening at the 14th Annual FILMI South Asian Film Festival. FILMI is an annual Toronto film festival showcasing the best in South Asian cinema from Canada and the world and was held in Toronto from September 26-29th at Carlton Cinema.

CTC Meets Senior US Official
October 2th, 2013 – Washington DC, USA

Vani Selvarajah, CTC Director and a member of our international advocacy team, along with three members of GTF, met with a senior US Diplomat at the US State Department in Washington DC to discuss Sri Lankan's human rights record. Given the crucial role US played in the previous UN resolutions passed against Sri Lanka and in anticipation of the March 2014 UN Human Rights Council session, the team discussed future plans of attaining accountability and the importance of keeping Sri Lanka on the international agenda.

CTC Meets Erik Solheim
October 9th, 2013 – Four Point by Sheraton, Mississauga

CTC officials informally met with former Norwegian Chief negotiator to Sri Lanka, Mr. Erik Solheim, during the beginning of the UN session in New York in September. Subsequently in October, CTC hosted a dinner meeting with Mr. Solheim. He was a former Minister of International Development and Minister for Environment of Norway and is currently serving as the new chair for the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee. 150 CTC members and supporters gathered to have a frank discussion with Mr. Solheim about his thoughts on any political solution/ negotiations in Sri Lanka.













CTC Plants Hundreds of Trees in Remembrance
October 13th, 2013 – Bob Hunter Memorial Park

CTC and CFLI joined hands to plant more than 320 trees in the Bob Hunter Memorial Park in Markham! Rouge Park provided logistical support and also shared their extensive knowledge of the park and the benefits of reforesting. Despite the weather, many Tamil Canadians from all ages contributed to the future of Rouge National Park. The large turnout proved the Tamil Community's commitment to protecting and conserving the environment for its future generations.

Ilangkhai Thamilar Sangam/USTPAC AGM:
November 1st - 2nd, 2013 – New Jersey, USA

A three member CTC team attended the Ilangkhai Thamilar Sangam/ USTPAC annual general meeting in New Jersey. The team discussed issues affecting Tamils in Sri Lanka and took part in a forum attended by many Tamil organizations, including the TNA. CTC works closely with USTPAC in its international advocacy efforts in Geneva.

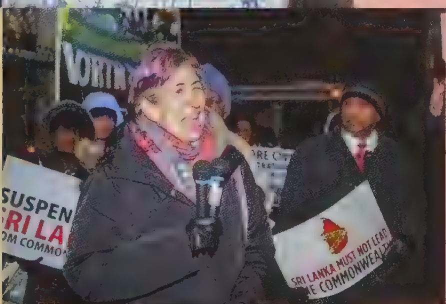


New
JAASMIN
Banquet Hall &
Convention Centre
Weddings, Birthday Parties,
Anniversaries, Puberty Ceremonies,
Family Events, Meetings
and Celebrations
Catering & Delivery
www.newjaasmin.ca
Call: 905-477-3350 / 416-827-6660
90 Nolan Court, Unit #10, Markham ON L3R 4C9













Tamil Canadian protest in solidarity with Tamils in the North & East of Sri Lanka
November 14th, 2013 – Sri Lankan Consulate, Toronto

In conjunction with the protests of people within Sri Lanka against the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), CTC and many other organizations came together to organize a large joint protest in Toronto, in front of the Sri Lankan Consulate. Everyone protested the decision to hold CHOGM in Sri Lanka and to highlight the ongoing human rights violations there. Despite important leaders from countries like Canada and India not attending CHOGM, the meeting unfortunately proceeded in Colombo, Sri Lanka from November 15-17th, 2013.

CTC Bids Farewell to South Africa's Greatest Son – Nelson Mandela
December 6th, 2013 – South African Consulate, Ottawa

On December 5th, the world lost a remarkable human being and one of the most beloved leaders of the 20th century. CTC President and Officials laid flowers and personally handed over a letter of condolence on behalf of the Tamil Canadian community to South Africa's High Commissioner to Canada at the South African High Commission in Ottawa. 'As we celebrate the life of a truly courageous individual who touched the hearts of thousands of people worldwide, let us continue to be inspired by his resolve to ensure a peaceful and just society for all', the letter read. While the world may have lost one of its great moral leaders, may his legacy of hope, reconciliation and forgiveness live on.

CTC Writes for Rights
December 8th, 2013 – CTC Toronto

In anticipation of International Human Rights Day on December 10th, 2013, CTC and CFLI hosted Amnesty International's Write for Rights event - the world's largest letter writing event! Community members including our youth celebrated the anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. They read through cases of current human rights violations and expressed their concern in handwritten letters.

CTC Need You!

CTC periodically meets and provides updates with concerned government departments, various political party and media officials both within and outside Ottawa. In the recent past, CTC officials have met with various foreign embassy officials, chiefs of various school boards, officials of various police forces and other agencies that help Tamils both in Canada and Sri Lanka. CTC remains committed to remaining engaged and furthering these valued relationships. We encourage you to join our team! ■

N.K.S. DRAPERES & BLINDS



உங்கள் வீட்டுக்குத் தேவையான சகலவித யன்னல் திரை வகைகளையும், கேட்டின் துணிவகைகளையும் மிகவும் மலிவான விலையில் பெற்றுக்கொள்ள அழையுங்கள்



கேதா நடராஜா

திறமையான சேவையால் பல விருதுகளைப் பெற்ற நிறுவனம்

Ketha Nadarajah (Keth)
President

Tel: 416 321 6420
www.**nksdrapery**.ca



Drapery & Blinds Fabric LTD. 210 Silver Star Blvd., Unit # 825 Scarborough, ON. M1V 5J9

www.nksdrapery.ca

Developing Leaders of Tomorrow

Since the formation of the Centre for Leadership and Innovation (CFLI) in January 2012, we've made great strides in laying a strong foundation to develop future leaders. Our vision is to build and promote leadership and innovation amongst Tamil Canadian and other multicultural communities. Leaders aren't born, - they are nurtured and developed. Our goal therefore is to provide an inspiring and supporting environment that will help individuals become leaders and leverage their full potential to bring about innovative change.

Youth Leadership Program (YLP)
In April 2012 we launched our first YLP initiative, a public speaking forum for youth members aged 10-17. The goal of this program is to help youth members become strong leaders of tomorrow, with primary focus on public speaking, teamwork and leadership, something the school curriculum does not focus enough on. The response has been tremendous.

We've had over 70 youth members enrolled in this program so far. Each semester is for a duration of four months, which consists of 8 classes. The classes are held every other week for a length of 2 hours each. The final class for each term is held at a large venue, where the participants are given the opportunity to speak and debate on a wide range of topics, with their parents in the audience. Our last end of term event was held on December 21, 2013 at the Markham Council Chamber with over 150 parents and invited guests in the audience. The youth members delivered an exceptional program and the feedback from the parents was very positive.

Short Documentary Film Challenge
To challenge the youth members at YLP, we took the program to another level during the summer of 2013. The youth members in the program were divided into five teams and were asked to produce a short documentary film that highlighted a social cause. Our emphasis here is to further develop individual leadership and team building skills. The 6 to 8 minutes documentaries produced by the youth members were amazing. They produced documentaries on wide ranging topics including High School Dropouts, Living with Autism, and Arranged Marriages. These documentaries were showcased at a gala event in front of an audience of 250 people. The summer program was a huge success with the youth members and the parents. We plan to offer this program again during the summer of 2014.

About the Founders of CFLI
Kumar Ratnam, Sivan Ilangko and I are the co-founders of CFLI. Sivan Ilangko and I qualified as Chartered Accountants in Canada, and Kumar Ratnam is an IT consultant. For volunteers like us, it is so rewarding to see the deference the YLP program is making in these youth members; youth members who were shy and introverted blossoming into confident public speakers. All three of us grew up in Sri Lanka, where we weren't taught public speaking or leadership skills. When we entered the workforce in Canada, it was a significant hurdle for us to overcome, as we were innately reserved and afraid to speak up. Well, we don't want our youth to face the same challenges. Our goal is to make a positive difference in their lives and to empower them to create their own success.

New Beginner Program in January 2014
Currently we run 3 programs at varying levels, and we will be adding a beginner program starting on January 26, 2014. Parents can sign up their children for this program through our website. For more information on the Youth Leadership Program, please visit our website at www.cflicanada.ca.

- Umesh Vallipuram

Leaders for Change Award
Prof. Craig Scott M.P.



The Leaders for Change Award honours the unique contribution of an individual who through his or her exceptional vision, perseverance and commitment has redefined or strengthened the need for change in our society. The recipient of this award will be someone who has demonstrated an effort to strive for change in a way that positively impacted the lives of others. This award recognizes a determined individual whose efforts are characterized by a dedication to leadership, a vision for change and a desire to enhance the lives of others.

2014 Award Recipient:
Professor Craig Scott, M.P. Toronto-Danforth

Prof. Craig Scott is an ardent human rights lawyer and currently serves as the Member of Parliament for Toronto-Danforth. He is also the Official Opposition Critic for Democratic and Parliamentary Reform. Until his election, he was professor of law at Osgoode Hall Law School and, prior to that, professor of law at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law.

As a human rights lawyer, Prof. Scott has spent years promoting justice in places like Sri Lanka, South Africa, Honduras and Afghanistan. Prof. Scott has been a strong advocate on anti-poverty issues and Aboriginal rights, and has done substantial work on the issue of Canada's transfer of detainees in Afghanistan to risk of torture. In recent years, Prof. Scott worked on issues such as accountability for human rights violations and environmental harms committed by Canadian companies in other countries.

Prof. Scott has been more than a parliamentarian for Tamil Canadians – he has been a dear friend. He has often voiced his concerns over the human rights situation in Sri Lanka and has advocated for the Tamil people, both on and off Parliament Hill. He co-founded the Sri Lanka Campaign for Peace and Justice, an extremely active and effective advocacy group, and played an active role on its Advisory Council until stepping down when elected to Parliament.

Prof. Scott has dedicated his life to an incredible display of leadership and devotion to the betterment of the Canadian community. We, as Canadians, are proud to have a friend like Prof. Scott and look forward to standing alongside him in his fight to defend human rights.

Service Excellence Award
Uthayan Newspaper

As part of our ongoing commitment to volunteerism and promoting community involvement, the Canadian Tamil Congress will honour the contribution of an individual or organization that has supported the Tamil people. The recipient of this award will be an organization that has demonstrated compassion, dedication and support to community-building efforts. This award will recognize the organization's long-term support, commitment and significant contribution to the Tamil community at large.



2014 Award Recipient:
Uthayan Newspaper, Jaffna

Founded in 1985, Uthayan Newspaper has been a well respected and reliable news source for people in Sri Lanka and beyond. Published from Jaffna, Sri Lanka, Uthayan has for the past 28 years, served as Tamil diaspora's source of news from miles away.

At a time when freedom of the media and free expression were under severe attack, Uthayan courageously reported about the human rights violations and day to day news stories in Sri Lanka. Uthayan's words reached worldwide – often times, the only way for Diaspora Tamils to remain informed about the tragedy unfolding in their homeland. Uthayan was the only newspaper published from Jaffna, which did not cease its publication during the Sri Lankan civil war. As a result, Uthayan premises and employees were victims of intimidation, harassment and countless attacks. Some of the staff members of Uthayan paid the ultimate price of being murdered.

As the civil war escalated to dangerous levels, newspapers published from Jaffna came under pressure from the Government of Sri Lanka. However, Uthayan has held remained committed to responsible journalism and has served the Tamil people since its humble beginnings. Uthayan officials stood up strong in an environment clouded with a complete disrespect for free, accurate and responsible journalism. Along with harassment and intimidation, the Sri Lankan government also attempted to shut down Uthayan in May 2000. The newspaper however re-opened days later; a symbol of Uthayan's sheer commitment to reporting the truth.

With over 45 years experience in journalism, Mr. Maruthappu Vallipuram Kaanamylnathan, served as the editor-in-chief of Uthayan. He was instrumental in ensuring that Uthayan continued to operate in the most difficult of times.


NEW DAWN
ENERGY SOLUTIONS
Harness The Power All Around You And Make The World Better Place For Everyone!
Catch your share of the Sun
with our energy solutions!
* Solar Grid-tied solutions
With this system your home can earn up to $5400 per year.
For every grid-tied system purchased from us we will
provide a solar remote home lighting system to a family
living without access to electricity in motherland.
* Solar Off-grid solutions
* Solar pool heating solutions
* Solar pathway lighting solutions
* Solar water pumping solutions
* Energy efficiency solutions
416-855-9377
info@NewDawn-ES.Com
www.NewDawn-ES.Com
TD Financing Services
AUTHORIZED DEALER
BBB.
ACCREDITED
BUSINESS

March 2014: Time for the UN to take Decisive Action on Sri Lanka

Gary Anandasangaree

The end of the armed conflict in Sri Lanka in May 2009 resulted in the catastrophic loss of so many lives, gross violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, and the continued subjugation of Tamils on the island as second-class citizens. In the last four and half years, the Canadian Tamil Congress has been present at every UNHRC meeting. With the strength of members and dedicated volunteers — the singular mission has been to ensure that justice is served.

Since 2009, moral outrage from the international community has heightened against Sri Lanka's President and military - yet, the United Nations Human Rights Council (Council) is often paralyzed by geo-politics to bring about a proper set of accountability measures. While Sri Lanka has remained high on the Council agenda, it has failed to capture opportunities to seek truth, justice and accountability. The historical blunder, and the first lost opportunity was the Council's failure to come up with a fair resolution that sought accountability in the days following the end of the war during the Special Session on Sri Lanka in May 2009. After several aborted attempts at a resolution, and the Council passing two resolutions in 2012 and 2013 respectively, we may finally see a Commission of Inquiry established by Council on Sri Lanka. The mandate, composition and the structure of the COI will ultimately determine if the UNHRC has finally got it right. If Council fails to seize this opportunity, and pass another toothless resolution, or equally, not pass a resolution at all, the prospects for future engagement and outcomes from the UNHRC may be dim, and the opportunity to seek accountability in Sri Lanka may forever be lost.

If the Council takes the right path this year - it will open the door to an international, independent inquiry into war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. The UN Panel of Experts concluded in 2011 that there is sufficient evidence, if proven, constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. Beyond the grave civilian casualties - the attacks have been and continue to be calculated. The future remains bleak with prolonged state sponsored pogroms against Tamils; attacks on the very fundamental identity of Tamils, their language and their culture on the island. With the increased "de-Tamilisation" of the traditional Tamil areas, the international community must step forward to examine if genocide has, and continues to be committed against the Tamil people in Sri Lanka. Whether it be genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity - none is conclusive without an investigation by a properly constituted, international, and independent panel with the mandate to make a finding of fact.



The 25th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council this March is an important forum to call for an International Commission of Inquiry on Sri Lanka. For almost five years, the Sri Lankan government has had ample time to institute a genuine accountability mechanism. However, it has failed to bring about any credible process in which at least some form of redress can be given to the victims and their families. As a backdrop during these

See page 54





Continued from page 53

years, the human rights and civil rights situation has deteriorated on the island and is a cause for greater international scrutiny. The hallmarks of a true a democracy - respect for the rule of law, freedom of the press, an independent judiciary, and clear separation of powers - do not exist in Sri Lanka. The calls for reconciliation have been masked by a "Sri-Lankan" centered approach involving the reconstruction of roads, hotels and tourist attractions in hopes that citizens will forget the war. The recent calls for a South African styled Truth and Reconciliation Commission model, is frankly, too little, too late. In March 2014, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillai, will release her formal written report on her visit to Sri Lanka in August of 2013. For the first time, with the exception of the non-substantive Special Session in 2009, a discussion on Sri Lanka will be an official agenda item at the Human Rights Council.

Council ought to grasp this opportunity and constitute a Commission of Inquiry into war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in Sri Lanka. CTC will continue to advocate to bring those responsible for these heinous crimes to justice and to provide redress to the victims of these crimes. ■

Gary Anandasangaree is an international human rights lawyer and has attended the UN Human Rights Council on behalf of Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada since May 2009. He is an active volunteer with the Canadian Tamil Congress.

மன்டேலாவும் மனிதநேயமும் ஈழத் தமிழரும்

தென் ஆபிரிக்காவிலே நிறவெறி கொண்ட அடக்குமுறை அரசுக்கெதிராக போராடி 27 ஆண்டுகள் சிறை வாசத்தையும் பல இன்னல்களையும் அனுபவித்தார் மா மனிதர் மன்டேலா. இன்று மனிதநேயத்தையும், தனிமனித சுதந்திரத்தையும் பெற்றுகொடுத்து, தென் ஆபிரிக்க கறுப்பின மக்களை மட்டுமல்லாமல் உலகுவாழ் மக்களனைவரயும் சுதந்திரமாக தலை நிமிர்ந்து நடக்க வித்திட்ட பெருந்தலைவன் இன்று விதையாகிப்போனான். இதுவரை எந்த அரசியல் தலைவருக்கும் இல்லாத அளவு உலக நாட்டு தலைவர்கள் பலர் அன்னாரின் இறுதிக்கிரியையில் கலந்து



அஞ்சலி செலுத்தியமை உலக சரித்திரம் காணாதவை. ஆபிரகாம் லிங்கனுக்கும், மகாத்மா காந்திக்கும் நிகரான தலைவர் என்று வரலறு ஒப்புக்கொண்ட தலைவராக நெல்சன் மண்டேலா அவர்கள் புகழ் என்றும் வாழும்.

இவர் நெல்சன் றொனிலோலா மண்டேலா அவர்கள் கட்லா ஹென்றி, (Gadla Henry Mphakanyiswa) நொஹாபி நொஸ்கெனி (Noqaphi Nosekeni),, தம்பதியினருக்கு மகனாக ஜுலை 18, 1918 ல் முவேசொ (Mvezo) எனும் இடத்தில் கேப் மாகாணத்தில், தென் ஆபிரிக்காவிலே ஒரு செல்வசெழிப்புமிகுந்த குடும்பத்தில் பிறந்தார். இவருக்கு உடன் பிறப்புக்கள் பத்தாகும். இவர் ஆபிரிக்க குடிகளில் ஒன்றான தெம்பு (Thembu) இனத்தில் பிறந்தவர், இவர்கள் பேசிய மொழி கோசா(Xhso) எனப்படும்.

இவர்களினத்தில் முதன் முதலில் படிக்கச்சென்றவவரும் இவரே. அச்சமயம் ஆங்கிலம் படிக்கச்சென்ற வகுப்பில்தான் இவருக்கு இடப்பட்ட பெயர்தான் நெல்சன் என்பதாகும். ரோலிலோலா என்பதன் அண்ணளவான பொருள் கலகக்காரன் என்பதாகும் (Trouble maker). இவர் சட்டம் பயின்ற போதுதான் சக வெள்ளை மாணவன் ஒருவனின் மீது இவரது உடையின் ஒரு சிறு நுனி பட்டுவிட்டதனால் அவன் தனது வெறுப்பையும் அருவருப்பினையும் வெளிப்படுத்தினார். பின் அவ மானப்படுத்திய போதுதான் மன்டேலா அவர்கள் முதன்முதலாக நிறவெறியின் வெளிக்காட்டலை அறிந்து கொண்டதனை தனது சுய வரலாற்றில் குறிப்பிட்டுள்ளார். தென் ஆபிரிக்காவில்தான் மகாத்மா காந்தியும் புகையிரத வண்டியின் முதல் வகுப்பு பெட்டியிலிருந்து, "நீ இந்தப்பெட்டியில் பயணம் செய்ய தகுதியற்றவன்" என்று, அன்று வெள்ளையர்களால் பலாத்காரமாக வெளியேற்றப்பட்டார், இதனை இந்தவேளையில் நினைவுகூர்தல் சாலச்சிறந்ததாகும்.

தென் ஆபிரிக்காவில் வந்தேறிய வெள்ளையர்கள் ஆயுதங்களால் அம்மக்களை அடக்கியொடிக்கி அங்கு பாரம்பரியமாக வாழ்ந்து வந்த கறுப்பின மக்களை, அடிமை களாகவும் அரை வயிற்றுக்கு உழைக்கும் கூலிகளாகவும் பாவித்து வந்தனர். மந்தைகள் போல் வாழ தனி குடியிருப்புக்கள், பள்ளிகள், உணவு விடுதிகள் யாவுமே கறுப்பின மக்களுக்கென்று தனியாக ஒதுக்கியிருந்தார்கள். வெள்ளையர்கள் வாழும் சாலை களிலே கூட நடக்கமுடியாதபடி ஒடுக்கப்பட்டிருந்தனர். இதே நிலை இன்னும் சில இடங்களில் நமது பாரத தேசத்தினில் சாதியம் என்ற கொடுமைகளினால் உயர் சாதியினர் வாழும் கிராமங்களினூ டாக தரம் குறைந்த சாதியினர் என வரையறுக்கப்பட்ட மக்கள் தோளில் துண்டும், காலில் பாதணி அணிந்து கொண்டோ செல்ல முடியாத அவலம் நம்



சிவா வேலுப்பிள்ளை

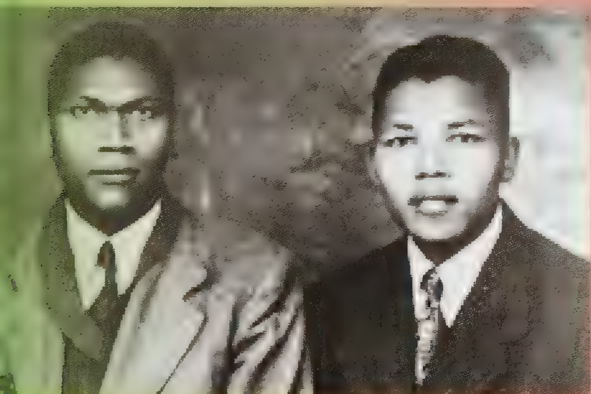
அயலிலும் இன்றும் நடைமுறையில் இருப்பது மிக வேதனையான விடயமாகும்.

1943 களில் மண்டேலாவின் போராட்டம் தொடங்கியது எனலாம். முதலில் பேருந்து கட்டண உயர்வை எதிர்த்து மக்களைத்திரட்டி போராடி வெற்றியும் பெற்றார். இந்த சம்பவம் அவருக்கு ஒரு ஊக்க சக்தியாக அமைந்தது எனலாம். கறுப்பின மக்களும் மனிதர்களே, அவர்களும் கௌரவமான வாழ்க்கையை வாழ

See page 57

Continued from page 55

உரிமை உள்ளவர்களே என்பதனை அம்மகளை உணரச்செய்வித்ததே அவரது போராட்டத்தில் பாரிய பங்காகும். சுதந்திரம் என்பது உணவுத்தட்டில் ரொட்டியோடு சேர்த்து வழங்கப்படுவதில்லை அது போராடித்தான் பெறவேண்டிய ஒன்றாகும் என்பதனையும் தன் மக்களுக்கு மிக ஆழமாக அவர்கள் மனதில் பதியச்செய்தார். இவர் சட்டக்கலூரியில் படித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கும் போதே இரகசியமாக அரசுக்கெதிராக திட்டம் தீட்டினார் என பல வழக்குகளில் அடிக்கடி கைது செய்யப்பட்டார். போராட்ட காலகட்டத்தில் கறுப்பின மக்களின் விடுதலைக்காக எதியோப்பியா சென்று ஆயுதங்கள் செய்யவும் வெடி குண்டுகள் தயாரிக்கவும் பயின்றதோடு, கொரில்லா போராளிக்கான பயிற்ச்சியையும் கற்றுக்கொண்டார்.



1944ல் ஆபிரிக்க தேசிய காங் கிரசில் இணைந்து, நிறவெறிக் கொள்கைகளுக்கு எதிராக அரசை எதிர்த்து போராடினார். ஆபிரிக்க தேசிய காங்கிரஸ் 1960ல் தென் ஆபிரிக்க அரசினால் தடை செய்யப்பட்டது. அதன்பின்னர் ஆயுத புரட்ச்சியாக வடிவெடுத்தது, 1962ல் மண்டேலா அவர்கள் கைதுசெய்யப்பட்டு சிறையிலிடப்பட்டார். 1956 முதல்1961 வரை தேசத்துரோக வழக்கில் சிக்கித்தவித்து வெள்ளை அரசினால் குற்றவாளியாக்கப்பட்டு சிறை சென்றார். இந்த காலகட்டத்தில்தான் மண்டேலா தெனாபிரிக்காவில் நிறவெறியை எதிர்த்து போராடும் ஓர் கறுப்பின தலைவன் என்ற புகழ் உலகெங்கும் பரவியது. உலக நாடுகளினதும், மனிதநேய தொண்டு நிறுவனங்களாலும், மனிதநேய ஆர்வலர்களினது பெரு முயற்ச்சியால் தான் இந்த 27 வருட கால சிறைவாழ்வில் மண்டேலா அவர்கள் சிறையினுள் கொல்லப்படாமல் தப்பி வாழ்ந்தார் என அறியப்படுகின்றது. நெல்சன் மன்டேலா அவர்கள் பெப்ரவரி 11, 1990ல் விடுதலை பெற்றார்.

மன்டேலா அவர்களின் குணாதி சயங்கள் வித்தியாசமானவை. கண்ணீர் உருக்கக்கூடிய சந்தர்ப் பங்களில் சிரிப்பார். கோபமடைந்து கொந்தளித்தெழ வேண்டிய பொழுதில் அமைதியடைந்து விடுவார். ”வெள்ளையரை வெறுக்கவேண்டிய பலமான நியாயங்கள் பல அவர் பக்கம் இருந்தபோதிலும், அவர் மனதில் எவர் மீதும் வெறுப்பு என்பதே இல்லை” என்று அவரது நண்பர்கள் கூறுகிறார்கள். இதற்கும் அப்பால் பெடல் கஸ்றோ அவர்கள் ”மன்டேலா போல அபூர்வமான மனிதரை நான் கண்டதில்லை, அவரைப் போல் நேர்மையான நிரந்தரமான போராளியையும் பார்த்ததில்லை, அவர்மனதுள் ஆயிரம் பிரச்சனைகள் அலைமோதினாலும் முகத்தில் புன்னகையைத்தவிர வேறெதனையும் நான் அவரிடத்தில் கண்டதில்லை” என்றார்.

தேர்தல் மூலம் மக்களால் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்ட முதல் கறுப்பின ஜனாதிபதியாக நெல்சன் றோலிலோலா மன்டேலா அவர்கள் மே மாதம் 10ம் திகதி 1994ம் ஆண்டு பதவிப்பிரமாணம் செய்து கொண்டார். ஐந்து ஆண்டுகள் பதவியிலிருந்து தனது மக்களுக்கான சேவையினை வழங்கினார். மேலும் தொடர்ந்து வந்த பதவி வாய்ப்பை நாகரிகமாக மற்றவர்க்காக விட்டு கொடுத்து மகிழ்ந்தார். தென் ஆபிரிக்காவில் முதல் முறை ஜனாதிபதியாக நெல்சன் மண்டேலா அவர்கள் பதவியேற்ற போது கீழ் காணும் வார்த்தைகளை தனது மக்கள் முன்கூறி தமது வெற்றிக்கனியை அவர்களுடன் பகிர்ந்துகொண்டார்.



”ஒரு மனிதன் தன் மொழி, இனம், பொருளாதாரப் பாகுபாடுகளைக்கூட மறைத்து வாழலாம். ஆனால் உடலின் நிறத்தை மறைத்து வாழமுடியாது. நாங்கள் அவ்வளவு இழிவுகளையும் துயரங்களயும் வேதனையோடு சுமந்து வாழ்ந்தவர்கள். எம் கறுப்பின மக்கள் இனி யாருக்கும் அடிமை இல்லை. இனி அவர்கள் இந்த நாட்டில் சுதந்திரமாக நடமாடலாம். பேசலாம், பாடலாம், சமமாக பயணிக்கலாம், சமமாக இருந்து உண்ணலாம். இந்த பரந்த வெளியில் நிலவப்போவது இனி சமாதானமே” என்று கூறினார்.

தென் ஆபிரிக்காவில் இருந்த நிற வெறி போன்ற வெவ்வேறான பலவித அடக்குமுறைகள் வெவ் வேறு வடிவங்களில் உலகில் பல தேசங்களிலும் நடைபெற்றுக் கொண்டிருக்கின்றன. அம்மக்களும் தங்கள் விடுதலைக்காக போராடிக் கொண்டுதான் இருக்கின்றார்கள். மனித உரிமை ஆர்வலர்களும் தங்கள் முன்னெடுப்புக்களை செய்து கொண்டிருக்கும் வேளையில், ஆளும் அரசுகளும் தங்கள் மாயா ஜால வித்தைகள் மூலம் தங்கள் அரசினை மனித நேயமிக்க அரசாக உலகிற்கு காட்ட முனைந்து கொண்டிருக்கின்றன. இந்த வகையில் எமது தமிழ் மக்கள் ஈழத்திலே

See page 59

Continued from page 57

படுகின்ற அவலத்தினையும் சொந்த மண்ணிலே சுதந்திரமாக உழைகக்வும், உண்ணவும், உறங்கவும், முடியாத சூழ்நிலையில் உள்ளனர்.

உடமைகளையும் உற்றார், உறவுகளையும் இழந்து தங்கள் மண்ணில் ஆதரவற்ற நிலமையில் வாழ்கின்றனர். நம் உறவுகள், புலம்பெயர்ந்து வாழுகின்ற தங்கள் உறவுகள், தங்களை ஒருபோதும் கைவிடமாட்டார்கள். தங்களுக்கோர் சுதந்திரமான விடியலை உலகநாடுகளின் உதவியுடன் பெற்றுத்தருவார்கள், என்ற மாறாத நம்பிக்கையுடன் சகல அச்சுறுத்தல்களையும், அவமானங்களையும் தாங்கிக் கொண்டு நடைபிணமாக வாழ்ந்து கொண்டிருக்கின்றார்கள். இதனை நாமனைவரும் அறிவோம். இந்த வேளையிலே புலம் பெயர்ந்து வாழும் நாமும் மனித நேயத்தோடு சிந்தித்து மனிதநேய ஆர்வலர்களோடு இணைந்து செயலாற்ற வேண்டிய தருணமிதுவாகும்.

"எல்லோரும் இன்புற்றிருக்க நினைப்பதுவே யல்லாமல் வேறொன்று அறியேன் பராபரமே." என்கிறார் தாயுமானவர்.

மற்றய உயிரினங்கள் தங்கள் உணவுக்காக மாத்திரமே பிற உயிரினங்களை கொல்கின்றன. ஆனால் ஆறறிவு படைத்த மனிதனோ அதிகாரம் ஆசை ஆணவம் கோபதாபங்கள் போன்ற பல காரணங்களினால் தன்னினமான மனித உயிர்களை கொன்று குவித்து, இம்சைப்படுத்தி இன்பம் காண்கின்றான். என்ன வேதனை? இங்கேதான் ஒரு கேள்வி எழும்புகின்றது.

ஒரு தனி மனிதனின் பிறப்பில் நிற, மொழி, மத, சாதிய உயர்வு தாழ்வுகளை அவனாக, அவளாக தேடியோ வரம் பெற்றோ இப்பூவுலகில் வந்து பிறந்ததில்லையே. அப்படியிருக்கும் போது அவனிலோ அவளிலோ எப்படி குறைகூறமுடியும். ஓர் ஆணும் பெண்ணும் கலவியில் சேரும் பொழுதுதானே கரு உருவாகுகின்றது. கரு வளர்ந்து முழு உருப்பெற்று பிறந்த பின்னர்தான்



அவனோ அவளோ யார் அவரென அடையாளம் காணப்படுகின்றார்கள் இல்லையா? இந்த நிலையில் எப்படி ஏற்றத்தாழ்வுகளையும் இன்ன பிற பிளவுகளையும் எடை போட முடியும். ஆகவே சிந்தனா சக்தி பெற்ற இனமே நாம்தான் மானிடர் மத்தியில் மனிதநேயமுடையவர்களாக வாழ்ந்து சேர்ந்து மனிதநேயப்பண்புகளை கட்டியெழுப்பி மேலும் வலுச்சேர்க்க வேண்டும்.

தென் ஆபிரிக்காவில் நிறவெறி போன்று இலங்கையில் மத, மொழி வெறி, போருக்கு பின்னும், இன்று வரையும், சமாதான நிலையை அடைந்ததாக இல்லை. ஆக்கிரமிப்புக்களும், ஆட்கடத்தல்களும் கொலைகளும், மிரட்டல்களும் தொடர்ந்து அரங்கேறிய வண்ணமாகவே உள்ளது.

தென்னாபிரிக்காவில் நிறவெறி தலைவிரித்தாடியபோது மன்டேலா அவர்களின் தலைமையில் உரிமைப்போர் தொடங்கியது. ஐக்கிய நாடுகள் சபை, மனித உரிமை அமைப்புக்கள் போனற பன்முனையான செயற்பாடுகளின் கூட்டான முயற்சியால்தான் இந்த வாழ்வு அவர்களுக்கும் கிடைத்தது. இலகுவில் அல்ல மிக நீண்ட நெடிய போராட்ட பயணத்தின் பின்னர்தான் அந்த நாட்டு சகல மக்களும் சுதந்திர காற்றை சுவாசிக்கின்றார்கள். இந்த நிலையில் நமது மக்கள் எப்போது சுதந்திரமாக வாழப்போகிறார்கள்? அந்த நிலமையினை விரைவில் எட்ட நாம் என்ன செய்யவேண்டும்? என்று நாம் ஒவ்வொருவரும் சிந்தித்து செயலாற்ற முடியும் என உறுதியாக நம்புவோமாக.

"ஒன்றுபட்டால் உண்டு வாழ்வு" என்று இளமையில் கற்றதேயன்றி நடைமுறையில் என்வாழ்வில் கண்டதில்லை. ஏன் இந்த முரண்? நாம் கருத்தால் ஒன்று பட்டுவிட்டால் தலமை ஒன்றே என்ற நிலமை மாறிவிடும். நாமொருமித்த கருத்தோடு விடுதலையை நோக்கிய பயணத்தில் ஒன்றுபடுவோமாயின் அல்லலுறும் நம் உறவுகள் விடியல் வெகு தூரத்தில் இல்லை. எண்ணங்கள் ஒன்றாகின் பிளவுகள் இணைந்துவிடும். சிறு சிறு குழுக்களாக இயங்குவ தில் தவறில்லை, சமூகம் சார்ந்த விடுதலை போன்ற பொதுவிடயங்களில் ஒன்றுபட்டு முரணான விடயங்களை எல்லோரும் கலந்து பேசி அலசி ஆராய்ந்து சரியான முடிவை ஏகோபித்த ஆதரவுடன் நடைமுறைப்படுத்தும் போது தான், பொது மக்க ளின் ஆதரவும் பெருகும், நாம் மேற்கொள்ளும் குறிக்கோளும் நிறைவடைய சந்தர்ப்பங்கள் அதிகமாகும்.

உங்களுக்கும் இக்கருத்துக்கள் தெரிந்தவைதான். இங்கு யான் கூட்டவும், கழிக்கவும், பெருக்கவும், பிரிக்கவும் இல்லை, ஆனால் இது ஒரு மீட்டலேயன்றி வேறொன்றுமில்லை. ■

தமிழ் ஆர்வலரும் சமூகத் தொண்டருமான திரு. சிவா வேலுப்பிள்ளை, கனடிய தமிழர் பேரவையின் ஒரு நிர்வாக இயக்குனருமாவார்.


காப்புறுதியின் பயனைக் காலம் சொல்லும்
iNFORCE LIFe
Financial Services Inc.
A Division of
iNFORCE
Group of Companies
Insurance Solutions for
LIFE | HEALTH | GROUP
Investment
QUALITY ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST!
Chandran Rasalingam CHS
President & CEO
www.inforcelife.com
10 Milner Business Court, Suite 707
Scarborough ON M1B 3C6
printfast.ca
WANT TO BECOME A FINANCIAL ADVISOR?
JOIN OUR FREE CLASSES TO GET YOUR LICENCE FAST!

The Time Has Come To Work Together!

Pongal signifies thanksgiving for some and new beginnings for others. This bode very well for our community in the current context. While the thirty years of war in our motherland made us leave with sad memories, it has also created among us, a strong community in Canada and worldwide. But the community who did not leave our motherland has gone through countless difficulties and have since become a vulnerable community.

This Pongal day gives the community outside our motherland a chance for thanksgiving and a chance to make new beginnings. Thanksgiving can be in any form and not necessarily in the form of finance. Those of us who left, have since learned new skills, developed better habits and accumulated wealth in many areas which can be put to use in our motherland to create a new beginning to our brethren there.

Now we also have the opportunity to rebuild the motherland; so the question we need to ask first is: how do we want our motherland to be shaped and where do we want to see it placed on the progression map in the future. Thirty years of war has delayed the progress in our motherland during which period, the rest of the world has made progress.

Currently, efforts have been made to support our brethren on individual levels with finance. This has affected our community's characteristics of being hardworking, reliable, and loyal in a negative way and the community back home lacks resources in many fields. Since most of our community is abroad, it is very important that expatriates who have been contributing to the development of many countries around the world, take time to share their experience in shaping the future of our motherland. We cannot expect foreign countries to help our brethren to any great extent; we should help rebuild it ourselves. By the expatriate community coming forward to assist in rebuilding, it will create opportunities to expand economies in both countries – our home country as well as back home.

We also need to realise that in today's global market, there are no defined boundaries or major barriers for global trade. Therefore, goods and services can flow anywhere and people will trade where they see good value. Understanding this concept now is very important as our motherland is at a critical juncture of making choices for the future. Every part of the world is gifted with certain resources and advantages, so we must leverage on these god given resources when making choices. When we make our choices, we cannot think that since this is what we have been doing for generations, why we should change? We all heard this logic at our workplaces and know what has happened to these beliefs.

Another strong characteristic of our community is our deep affection to our homeland, which can be very detrimental to shaping back home in futuristic ways. One thing the 30 year war may have taught us is that no one was born with land; instead, we merely live our lives on that land. So we must make every effort to live happily during this period and preserve the resources on the land so that future generations can live there.

Whatever we do in rebuilding the economy back home should be optimised to preserve the resources. Current practices there does not give much consideration to this aspect. Shifting this paradigm is more important in Sri Lanka than anywhere in the world as the island is recovering from thirty years of devastation and the economic activities have no where to go but to increase.

Most of the infrastructure that was damaged by the war have since been restored and the island is ready for the next level of progress. This juncture is critical, as it will define the future of our motherland.



For generations, the human race has used the sun's energy for various purposes. We Tamils have the Pongal festival to

Hari Pradeepan

give thanks for the energy that the sun has provided. Currently, we even have technology that can put the sun's energy in use for making electricity, heating water and cooking. Global warming and depletion of tradition energy sources have made us realize that our current way of living is not sustainable. Conservation and optimizing the use of energy coupled with changes in how electricity is generated have become popular

See page 63

Continued from page 61

discussions. Following these paths, our own province of Ontario has already shut down coal power plants to reduce the risk of global warming. Countries like Germany and Japan have already committed to not build nuclear power plants; instead, they will increase electricity generation from renewable sources – solar, wind.

Motherland has no oil, gas or coal resources and all available hydro resources have been tapped. This has prompted the Sri Lankan government to address the shortage with coal power plants. As people recover from 30 years of a mindset of war, economic activities will increase steadily as will the demand for electricity. It is therefore imperative to optimize the use of electricity, cut down on wastage and start generating electricity with locally available resources as much as possible.

We all know Sri Lanka is blessed with good solar resources year round and there are good wind resources in some parts of the island. We should make efforts to tap into these resources, as these are local and free. Another advantages of solar, wind resources is that they can be deployed at any size to suit the need at usage point. It can also eliminate the infrastructures required with traditional electric generating systems. Technologies are now available to start a small micro grid level to provide the features of a fully functional grid. These micro grids can be constructed in a way to connect them to the grid when it becomes available in the areas. Starting with solar / wind powered micro grid has the advantage of rapid deployment and providing much needed electricity to the war affected areas. Free locally available solar and wind resources must also be used in agricultural, industrial and other applications.

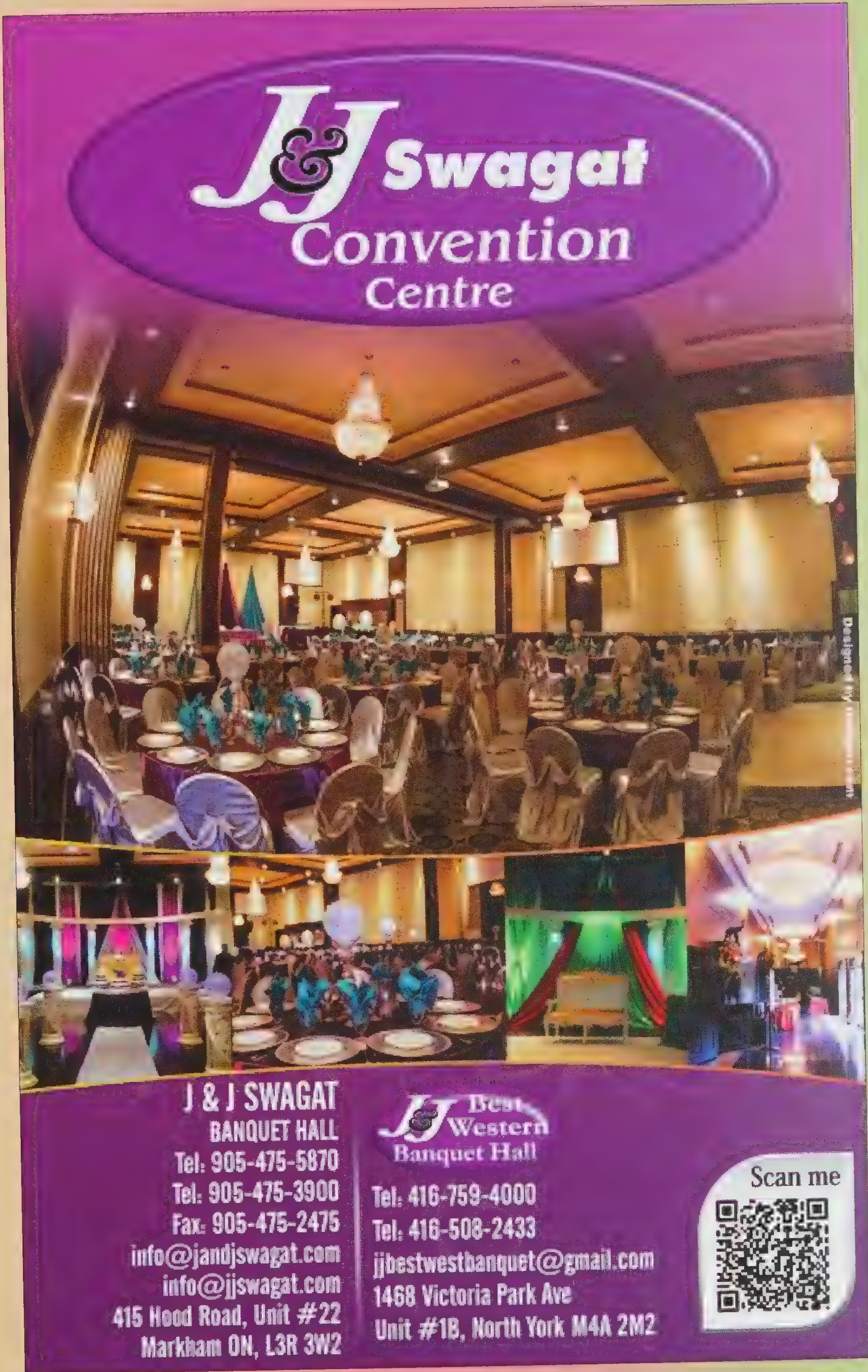
There is also an immense need for reasonable shelters in war-affected areas of Sri Lanka. With the help of sun, wind resources and appropriate construction materials building energy neutral homes will not only result in affordable homes but also increase the comfort it provides.

Thirty years of war has left our motherland with a lot of catching up with rest of the world. We have come together with many communities here in Canada, keeping and working together with other Canadians to contribute to the collective success of Canada. Whether or not the communities in our motherland have come and kept together for centuries, now, the time has come to work together to create the much-needed success for the island. ■

***Nani Pradeepan**, P.Eng. is a professional engineer in the province of Ontario. He is currently managing director of New Dawn Energy Solutions a Canadian company provides energy optimization and local energy generation solutions products & services.*


From my family to yours, happy Tamil New Year and Thai Pongal. My best wishes for a New Year filled with peace, joy, and prosperity.
Bonnie
Crombie
Your Voice in Mississauga's Ward 5
BonnieCrombie.ca
905-896-5500 | Bonnie.Crombie@Mississauga.ca
MISSISSAUGA
Leading today for tomorrow
Region of Peel
Working for you


Kairali
Taste of Kerala
Dine-in Take-out Catering
HWY 401
Ellesmere Rd
Birchmount Rd
Kennedy Rd
Midland Ave
Lawrence Ave
N
Real taste of Kerala!
1210 Kennedy Road
Scarborough. ON M1P 2L1
(Kennedy & Lawrence)
Tel: 416.909.0994
www.kairalitaste.com


J&J Swagat
Convention
Centre
J & J SWAGAT
BANQUET HALL
Tel: 905-475-5870
Tel: 905-475-3900
Fax: 905-475-2475
info@jandjswagat.com
info@jjswagat.com
415 Hood Road, Unit #22
Markham ON, L3R 3W2
J&J Best Western
Banquet Hall
Tel: 416-759-4000
Tel: 416-508-2433
jjbestwestbanquet@gmail.com
1468 Victoria Park Ave
Unit #1B, North York M4A 2M2
Scan me

தமிழர் பண்பாடு

உள்ளத்திலிருந்து வெளிப்படும் இயல்புகளைப் பண்பாடு என வழங்குவர். பண்பாடு சொல்லாலும் செயலாலும் வெளிப்படும். பண்பட்ட உள்ளம் கொண்டவரே பண்பாடு உடையவர் ஆவர். இப்பண்பாடே உலக உறவாக வளர்கின்றது. இது மாறாதது. என்றும் நிலைத்து நிற்பது. இதுவே மக்களினத்துக்குரிய சிறப்பாகும்.

"தமிழன் என்றோர் இனமுண்டு
தனியே அவற்கொரு குணமுண்டு"

தமிழர் பண்பாட்டில் தலைசிறந்தது மானம். மானம் என்பது ஒருவன் தன் நிலையிலிருந்து தாழாதிருப்பது, தாழ்வு வரும்போது உயிர் வாழாதிருப்பது. தமிழர் மானமிழந்து உயிர்வாழ விரும்பமாட்டார்.

தமிழர் பண்பாட்டிலேயே தைப்பொங்கல் திருநாள் ஒரு பொன்னாள். இன, மத வேறுபாடுகளைத் துறந்து இயற்கையைப் போற்றும் இன்பநாள். உலகுக்கு நீரையும் ஒளியையும் தந்து உணவுப் பயிர்களைச் செழித்து விளைய வைப்பவன் கதிரவன். வெப்பத்தையும் மரஞ்செடிகளுக்கு வேண்டிய ஒளியையும் தந்து உதவுபவனும் கதிரவனே.

கதிரவனின் கொடையால் எமக்கு வேண்டிய அனைத்தையும் இம்மண்ணுலகில் நாம் பெறுகிறோம். அதற்கு நன்றி கூறுவதற்காகவே இந்நாளைக் கொண்டாடுகிறோம். காய்கறிகள் நிறைந்து கனிகள் கனிந்து கூலங்கள் விளைந்து ஆனைந்து (பால், தயிர், மோர், வெண்ணெய், நெய்) பெருகி வளங்கொழிப்பது தைத்திங்கள். மார்கழியின் பனியகன்று இளவெயில் இதமாக ஒளிர்கின்ற திங்களும் தைதான். தைத் திங்களின் முதல் நாளை நன்றித் திருநாளாக்கினர் முன்னோர். தமிழர் வாழ்வில் எல்லா வளங்களும் கிடைக்கின்ற மிகச் சிறந்த திங்கள் தை. தைத் திங்களின் முதல் நாளைப் புத்தாண்டின் பிறப்பாகக் கொண்டனர் தமிழர்.

எனவே, உழைக்கும் மக்களுக்கு உயர்வுகளைத் தரும் நல்ல நாளை இனிய பொங்கலிட்டு விருந்தினரோடு உண்டு கொண்டாடினர் தமிழர். இதுவே தைப் பொங்கல் திருநாளானது. இத்தகைய பாரம்பரியங்களையும் சிறப்புகளையும் கொண்டது எம் பண்பாடு ஆகும்.



மாதுமை நடராஜா

Mathumai Nadarajah *is a Gr 4 student at David Suzuki Public School, Markham and a White band member of the Youth Leadership Program conducted by Centre for Leadership and Innovation.*





CANADIAN TAMIL CONGRESS invites you to their
BOAT CRUISE
Dinner & Dance
empress
OF CANADA
CONGRÈS TAMOUL CANADIEN • CANADIAN TAMIL CONGRESS
CTC
Boarding: 7:30 PM @ 11 Polson Street
SATURDAY AUGUST 9, 2014
Tickets: Regular $75 Under 25 $60
More info and Tickets:
416.240.0078
19+ Event
Empress of Canada Cruise Lines
Passenger Boarding @ 11 Polson Street. Toronto
11 Polson Street @ Cherry Street
DVP
Front
Union Station
TTC
from 427
Yonge
Gardiner Expressway
Lakeshore Boulevard
Parliament
Villiers Street
Commissioners Street
Cherry Street
Polson Street
Unwin Avenue
N
W
E
S
Empress of Canada
Passenger Boarding
11 Polson Street, Toronto

Bill 116 : Manoranjana Kanagasabapathy Act A Bill to Save Lives

One of the biggest ironies of life is that "you never know how good you had it until it is gone" - or in this case, taken away from you. Your loss is permanent, irreplaceable and sometimes even inconceivable.

A mother, grandmother, wife, daughter, sister, sister-in-law, aunt, niece, friend, colleague, volunteer, and music lover was killed tragically in an unwarranted collision of a TTC Bus with a cube van on August 13, 2013. The collision occurred in our own backyard – the junction of Middlefield and Steeles, in Scarborough, on a perfect summer day around 11 AM. It was evident that the collision was not due to rush hour traffic, weather or bad visibility. In fact, the westbound TTC bus was standing still at the northeast corner of Steeles & Middlefield when it was hit by a cube van travelling eastbound on Steeles. The van hit the parked TTC bus and killed one passenger, 52 year old Manoranjana Kanagasabapathy, fondly known as Ranjana and injured several others. We felt the immensity of the collision when we lost the life of our beloved Ranjana.

Please note that we cannot use the word "accident" loosely here. Most so called "accidents" do not happen just accidently. In fact, most of these so called accidents are preventable. In this incident, it was not the chaos of the peak hour traffic; it was not the visibility, nor the slipperiness of the road that caused the collision. So what contributed to this collision? The answer to this puzzle will be available when the authorities complete the investigations. However, media outlets reported witnesses alleging that the driver of the van was on the phone. Some reports alleged that the driver was searching to pick up the phone that had fallen on the floor; he was speaking on the phone even after the crash!

For a driver going eastbound on Steeles, to change lanes, to veer left again to cross from the eastbound lane into the westbound lane and to drive east



on westbound lanes and then to cross Middlefield and to ultimately collide with the stationary TTC bus - what caused this entire calamity?

This particular event has triggered the discussion on "Distracted Driving" in various media reports. "Being distracted with phones" has become a major cause of road collisions these days. It is this dangerous aspect of distracted driving that will be addressed in this article and any mention of distracted driving refers to the act of "holding and using phone while driving".

Motor vehicles can be transformed into lethal weapons in the hands of distracted drivers. With the increase of cellular phone usage, the risk of road-accidents is steadily on the rise. According to Driver Performance Studies[1], "the use of a handheld cellular phone while driving may demand a variety of maneuvers: searching for the phone in the vehicle, reaching for it to initiate or receive a call, dialing, holding it to the ear while driving, picking up a phone that has been dropped, and so forth. Even the use of a hands-free phone can be distracting to the driver as conversation consumes the driver's attention while driving, often resulting in unwarranted accidents."

See page 73

1 Cellular phone use while driving – Karen S.Lissy, M.P.H et al; Harvard Center of Risk Analysis, Massachusetts; July 2000

வட அமெரிக்க தமிழ்ச்சங்கப் பேரவையும்
மிசௌரி தமிழ்ச் சங்கமும்

Federation of Tamil Sangams North America SINCE 1988

மிசௌரி தமிழ்ச் சங்கம்

FeTNA XXVII - TAMIL CONVENTION

தமிழ் விழா

ST. LOUIS 2014

வட அமெரிக்க தமிழ் சங்கப் பேரவையின் 27-ஆம் ஆண்டு விழா
2014ஆம் ஆண்டு ஜூலை மாதம் 4,5 தேதிகளில்
செயின்ட் லூயிஸ் பெருநகரப் பகுதியில் இருக்கும்
Chaifetz Arena-வில் கொண்டாடப்பட உள்ளது.

இவ்விழாவில் தமிழ் அறிஞர்கள், ஆர்வலர்கள், கலைஞர்கள் மற்றும் தொழில் அதிபர்கள் பலர் உலகெங்கும் இருந்து திரண்டு வந்து சிறப்பிக்க உள்ளார்கள்.
விழா நிகழ்ச்சிகள் பற்றிய விபரங்கள் விரைவில் அறிவிக்கப்படும்.
இவ்விழாவில் குடும்பத்துடன் கலந்துகொண்டு சிறப்பிக்க அன்புடன் வேண்டுகிறோம்.

The 2014 FeTNA Convention in St. Louis will host a number of innovative programs for the millennial generation and young professionals such as the inaugural Tamil American Pioneer ("TAP") Awards Gala, a formal dinner event scheduled for Friday, July 4th.
Highly accomplished Tamil American professionals in academia, business, law & politics, and medicine, science & engineering will be honored at the TAP Awards Gala.

FeTNA **www.fetna2014.com** **#FeTNA**

Continued from page 71

Unfortunately, too many innocent lives are lost to distracted driving. Even one is too many.

"We need to prevent needless crashes caused by driver distraction and I believe this law will do just that." - Kathleen Wynne, the current Ontario Premier and the former Minister of Transportation said when the Distracted Driving Law was passed in the first instance.

Currently, Bill 116 known as "Manoranjana Kanagasabapathy Act" is before the Ontario Legislative Assembly. It has gone through the second reading and has since passed on to the review by the Legislative Assembly Committee. It will have to pass through the third reading and be signed by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario before it becomes law.

The distracted driving law, as it stands, is not deterrent enough for breaking the law with a mere $155 fine and no demerit points. This bill is therefore introducing the loss of 3 demerit points and an increase of fine between $300 - 700 from $155.

"I move this bill in honour of this person, who had the unfortunate situation of losing her life in an accident in my riding as a result of someone possibly using a handheld device while driving and losing control of their vehicle" stated Mr. Bas Balkissoon, MPP for Scarborough—Rouge River, moving the Private Members Bill in the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Bas Balkisson deserves the credit for spearheading this initiative and galvanizing support from all quarters where it was able to pass the second reading with the support of all parties in the house.

This Bill is meant to make the roads safe for everyone. However, laws, fines and points alone are not going to solve the problem. A widespread campaign along with proper driver education is necessary to prevent further tragedies like Ranjana's unnecessary death. We are aware of the evils of drinking and driving. But when it comes to talking on the phone while driving, most of us do not realize that it is also dangerous and could cost innocent lives. Educating the masses should start with educating the younger generation.

Peer Pressure and the compulsion to respond immediately:
There often is an unnecessary need that every call and every text must be responded to immediately. This naturally results in talking and texting while driving.

We must change this mindset. We must make the younger generation realise that safety is paramount and calls can always wait. There is a time and place for everything. Multitasking does cost lives. The life lost could even be yours!

The Motto should be: Hands on the steering wheel, eyes on the road, mind on driving, and driving alone!

Lack of understanding of the effects of Distracted Driving:
People feel it is harmless to use the phone and drive. But reports indicate that a driver on the phone has 4 times higher chance of causing a collision than a driver without a phone. We need to start the awareness campaign with the younger generation before they even get used to this habit. They are our future drivers. Education and awareness are the keys to fix this ignorance.

Social Stigma and Lesson to learn from MADD:
In the last twenty years, what MADD (Mothers Against Drinking and Driving) has done about drinking and driving, is quite remarkable. They brought the awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving. One could not escape from their campaign even if they wanted to. They were everywhere. They worked hard. The amazing results – the development of social stigma against drinking and driving; people look down upon drivers who drink and drive; and no one boasts about driving drunk anymore to their colleagues near the water coolers. The campaign on distracted driving must reach the same level of intensity to produce similar results achieved by MADD.

Holding the phone while driving should be perceived and treated as socially unacceptable and shameful acts. We must change the mindset of those who talk on the phone while driving. The younger generation is quite capable of making changes and we must engage them in our campaign against distracted driving. They must be our target in addition to the general public. This will bring our desired effect.

Please Take Action:

- Please set an example by driving with your hands free.
- Educate others to drive with their hands free.
- Bring in the aspect of social stigma against cellphone usage while driving.
- Your Campaign against Distracted Driving will save another life, such as that of Ranjana.
- It will also save many families as hers from many years of agony and grief!



சேர்ந்தே
எதிர்காலம்
பற்றி சிந்திப்போம்
think
future
Together
PRINT FAST.ca
416.752.3278 | print@printfast.ca
imagine
create
print
promote
& make difference


RE/MAX
RE/MAX
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT TOO MUCH COMPETITION IN THE INDUSTRY?
STAND OUT WITH RE/MAX.
A TEAM APPROACH WITH BRAND SUPPORT TO SUCCEED.
CALL SURESH TO BE PART OF THE WINNING TEAM.
Join the world's top real estate brand.
No office fees!
Up to 95%* commission!
Suresh Sellathurai*
416.844.5626
www.SureshandTeam.com
Re/Max Vision Realty Inc. Brokerage
Independently Owned and Operated
416-321-2228

Women-heads of Household: Perspectives on Peacebuilding through Justice

Jessica Chandrashekar



The final stages of the war in Sri Lanka were permeated with wide-spread breaches of international humanitarian law by government forces and included the specific targeting of Tamil civilians such as the shelling of hospitals and safety-zones. The UN Panel of Experts Report estimates the number of civilian deaths to range from 75,000 to 120,000. Tens of thousands of people who survived the final stages of the war now suffer from war-related disabilities. Humanitarian law was also violated by enforced disappearances of former combatants, their families and those who are suspected of sympathizing with former combatants. Enforced disappearances occurred throughout the war and continued in the camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) after the war.

The effects of the final phases of the war have resulted in drastic changes to the demographics of Tamils in the Northern Province and are shaped by a history of state-based discrimination, protracted civil war and displacement. These effects are further compounded by post-war developments such as a sharp rise in militarization, land-grabbing, food insecurity, lack of permanent housing for resettled IDPs, continued enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention. Of the survivors of 2009, there is a high volume of Tamil women-headed households who are now primarily responsible for the economic, social and cultural livelihoods of their families. There are at least 40, 000 widows in the Northern Province and tens of thousands more women-headed households, where the adult male has either been killed, disappeared or disabled due to the conflict. These women maintain families often in temporary or semi-permanent shelters, with irregular or no income and in areas with a high density of army and military settlements.

My doctoral research focuses on women survivors of 2009 and in particular women-heads of household. It is my contention that as survivors, witnesses and heads of their families, Tamil women of the Northern Province, particularly of the Vanni region have important insights as to how the war was fought, the actions of the Sri Lankan armed forces, state oppression and the issues that their communities are grappling with post-May 2009. These insights are important and should shape any action taken towards peace building.



Through my interviews several issues were identified and below I will briefly discuss four of them.

The first issue that was raised was post-war militarization and how it effects the day-to-day life of Tamils in the Northern Province. For every three civilians in the North, there is at least one army personnel, with some areas having an even higher military-civilian density. Militarization is understood as occupa-

See page 79

Continued from page 77

tion and has created insecurity. Women spoke of fear- fear to take their child to the hospital without an adult male accompanying them, fear for their children as they walk to school and fear of sexual violence. Women explained the source of their fears by giving countless examples of daily violence and harassment experienced by themselves, their communities and by their children. It is important to understand that almost four years after the war, the army now constitutes Northern Tamils' primary interaction with the state and this has only deepened resentment and suspicion of the Sri Lankan government.

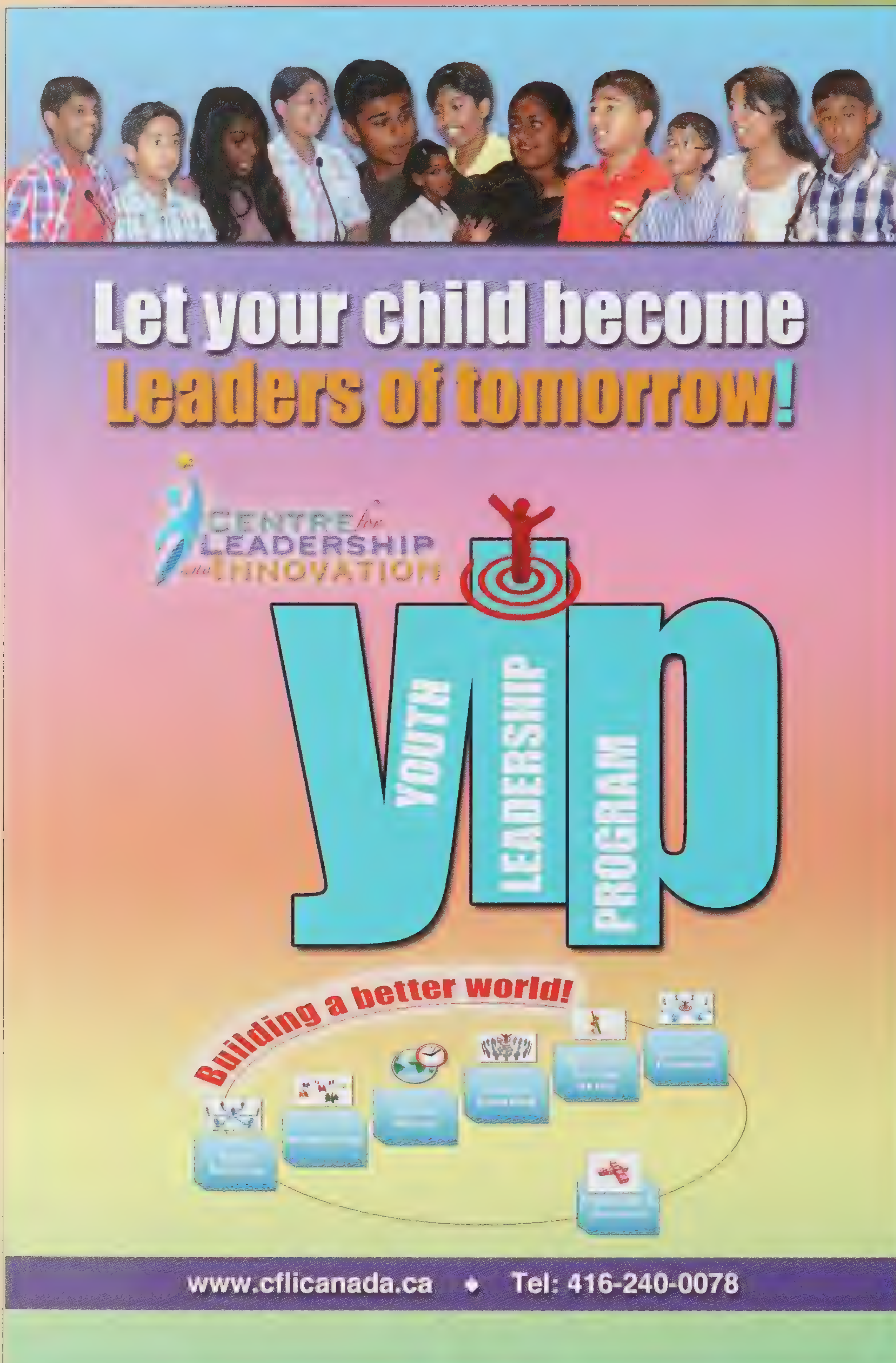


Secondly, militarization has also created a crisis in income-security as the army has taken over civilian businesses and agricultural land. The women I spoke with pointed out that poverty, hunger and unemployment were issues that were new to them only after the war. The army was cited as their main barrier to employment and livelihood development. Tractors, vehicles and other instruments essential to their pre-2009 occupations had been destroyed or stolen by the army after they fled their homes during the war. Thousands of acres of agricultural land has been appropriated by the army and those who were displaced during the war have not had their land returned. Women-heads of household who had young children at home had no one to leave their children with while they sought whatever few employment opportunities available to them. Many women described the desperation of not being able to feed their children and how this impacted their sense of autonomy and self, as mothers and as those responsible for a future generation.

Another issue that was raised was the effects of arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances. Women continue to search for their loved ones and for information regarding what happened to them during the war. Many women I spoke with would carry a photo of their family member and they narrated their struggles to find the disappeared or to visit a family member in detention. Prisoners are continuously moved between prisons and are often relocated outside of their communities making it difficult for their families to locate or visit them. Families are not informed when a prisoner is transferred or where they are transferred to and this often results in a form of enforced disappearance. Women described how for years they continued to seek out various authorities, prisons and army camps in search of the disappeared or demand that the detained are either charged or released.

Lastly, what I want to point out is that militarization, poverty, land-grabbing, enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention were all discussed using rights-based language. It is important to recognize that the post-war 'needs' women raised should not be divorced from questions of justice. Women spoke of their right to safety, the right to their land, the right to earn an income, their rights as mothers to provide for their children, their right to know what happened to their disappeared loved ones and the rights of prisoners. They spoke of how their rights are being violated and they named those responsible- the government and the army. Furthermore, women made clear that what happened during the war lives with them. The war is not contained in a past that can be forgotten because what happened during the war continues to profoundly shape their lives. Any kind of peace must be built through justice and this cannot be done through a domestic mechanism because, as my research as well as the work of human rights groups have illustrated, the Sri Lankan government continues to carry out the violence of the war despite its 'official' end.

Jessica Chandrashekar *is a doctoral candidate in Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies at York University. Her doctoral research focuses on transitional justice and peace building in Sri Lanka. She completed her BSc Honours and MA at the University of Toronto.*



Let your child become
Leaders of tomorrow!
CENTRE for LEADERSHIP and INNOVATION
ylp
YOUTH
LEADERSHIP
PROGRAM
Building a better world!
www.cflicanada.ca ♦ Tel: 416-240-0078

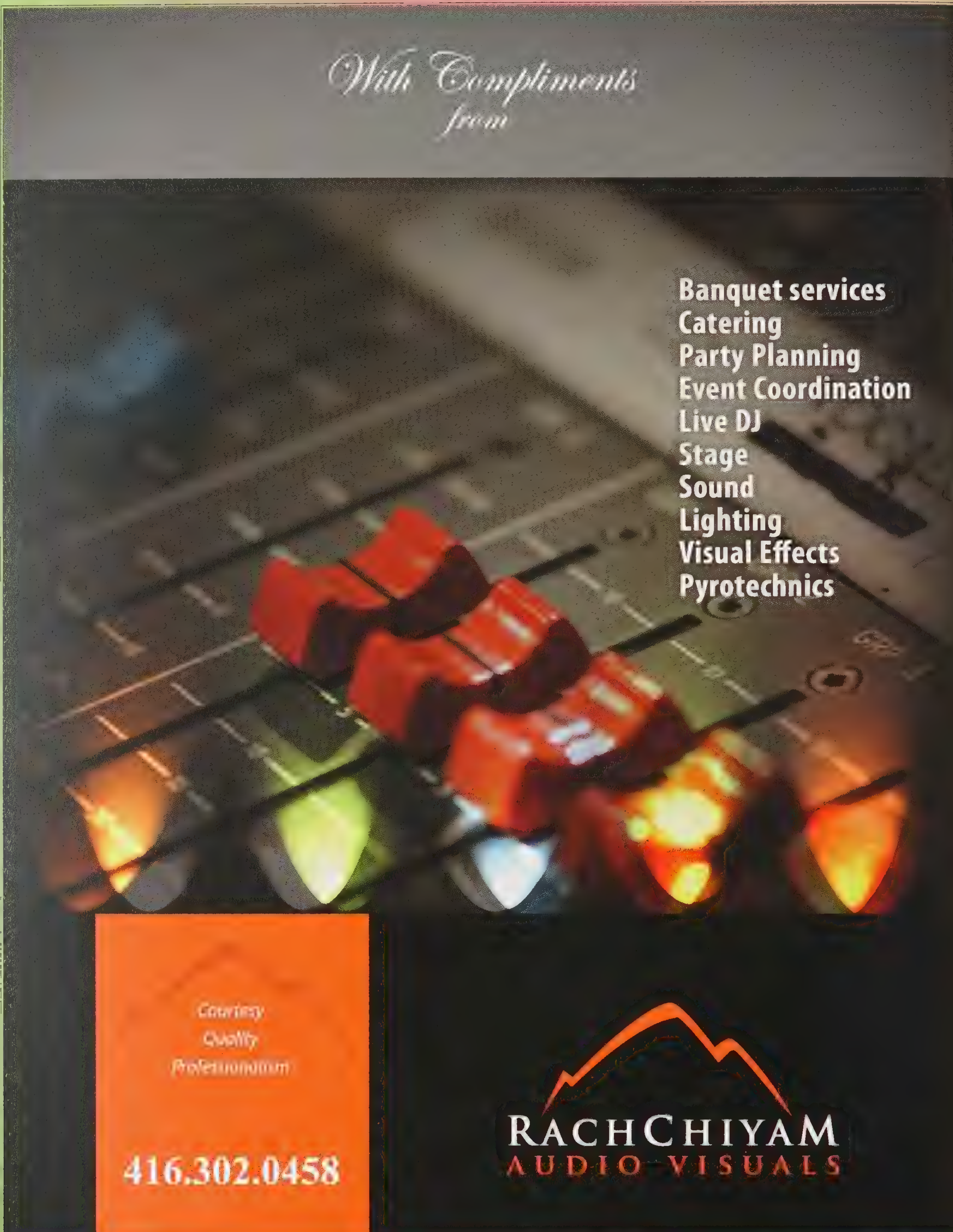
அறிதலின் மரணம்

மரணம் பற்றிய கேள்வி
என்னைத் தொடர்கிறது.
என் முதற்கவிதையிலேயே மரணம் பற்றிய வார்த்தைகள் விழித்திருந்தன.
அன்றென்தேசமெங்கும் அவைதான் விழித்திருந்தன.
அன்றிரவு நான் உறங்கவே இல்லை..
நெடும் காலத்தின் பின்பு
அலையை விடவும் உயரமான கடல்
மரணத்தை என்னிலத்தில் எழுதியது.
அப்பொழுதில் தாம் விரும்பியபடி மரணிக்க
யாருக்கும் கொடுத்து வைக்கவில்லை.
மரணமென்னும் அக் கொடும் கவிதையைக்
கடல் கொண்டு போயிற்று என முடித்து வைத்தோம்.
பின்னும் காலம் மண் அணைகளுக்கு மேலாகவும்
வனங்களுக்கூடாகவும் படர்ந்துசென்று
மரணத்தை இன்னுமொருமுறை எழுதியது.
அக்கணம் கொடூரங்களையும் கொலைகளையும் இரத்தத்தையும்
கண்ணீரையும் விளக்கப் பயன்படுத்தப்பட்டு வந்த வார்த்தைகள்
மூன்று தசாப்தங்களினூடே பயணப்பட்ட களைப்பிலிருந்தன.
முடித்து வைக்கப்பட முடியாத வேட்கையும்
வெற்றறிவின் வெஞ்சினமும்
நிராயுதபாணிகளாயின.
அறிதலின் மரணத்திற்கும்
மரணத்தின் அறிதலுக்குமிடையில்
இயங்கிய எங்கள் அரசியல் வெளியை
எத்தனை உடல்கள் நிரப்பின என்பதைக்கணக்கிடவின்னும்
கொடுத்துவைக்கவில்லை.
மறக்கப்பட முடியாததும்
மன்னிப்புக்கிடமில்லாதுமான அக் கொடும் கவிதையை
ஒவ்வொரு இரவும் வாசிக்கிறேன்.
மரணத்திற்கும் அரசியலுக்குமிடையிலான தொடர்பும்
சுதந்திரத்திற்கும் விடுதலைக்குமிடையிலான பெருவெளியும்
காணாமல் போவதற்கு சற்று முன்பு அவர்கள் கீறிய
சுவரோவியங்களுக்குள் உருவழிந்து போயிருந்தன.
காலத்தின் பெருமடியில் மரணத்திலாவது தெரிவுகள் இருந்ததா
நகரங்களைக் கடந்தேன் காலத்தைக் கடந்தேனில்லை
இலையுதிர்காலத்தின் மூளை நரம்புகளில் இலைகள் எதுவும்
எஞ்சியிருக்கவில்லை.
இலைகளையும் நினைவுகளையும் அள்ளிச்செல்லும்
பெருங்காற்றினோசை இரவை நிறைக்கிறது
ஊன்றுகோலை என் மகன் பரிசளிக்கும் அந்நாளில்
அன்பே உன் இரவுத்தேநீரை அருந்திய பின்னர்
உன் மடியில் மரணித்துப்போக விரும்புகிறேன்.
வரம் கொடு தாயே.



தேவ அபிரா

Theva Abira *(Puvanendran Thedchanamoorthy) was born in Inuvil, Jaffna. He is a poet, essayist, and translator. His poems have appeared in various literary journals. He won the Tamil Literary Garden (Canada) poetry award 2012 for his collection of poems Irul Thinra Eelam. He lives in the Netherlands.*


With Compliments
from
Banquet services
Catering
Party Planning
Event Coordination
Live DJ
Stage
Sound
Lighting
Visual Effects
Pyrotechnics
Courtesy
Quality
Professionalism
416.302.0458
RACHCHIYAM
AUDIO VISUALS

Poems Make Human Rights

At the end of this year, we are expecting the next global forum to discuss the human rights situation in Sri Lanka in the March 2014 session of the UN Human Rights Council. Irrespective of how much hope one might want to draw from the result of this meeting, let us take one step back to think about the issue of human rights more generally. As we, the Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora, have learned, access to human rights is a matter of life and death. What we have learned as well is that this access is scarce: while for us living in Western countries, human rights are much more accessible, human rights to Tamils living in Sri Lanka are far away. How could we overcome this situation?

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak[1] claims that human rights are a matter of education. She argues that education is key, not only when it comes to claiming human rights for oneself but also for abolishing the unequal accessibility of human rights for people living in the West and so called "third world countries". However, she does not speak about any kind of education. She even decries certain kinds of education, namely the system of rote learning, by means of which the poor in the global South are taught basic literacy and numeracy. Spivak argues that rote learning consolidates the "class-habit of obedience"[2] . It is a system which aims to bringing up citizens who obey, who do not question their lives in a political sense, and who do not see a connection between themselves and their government, except in terms of obedience. Of course, rote learning is officially justified as an efficient manner of teaching a large number of students from a wide range of age groups. Spivak has proved different by means of her own school projects[3] in rural West Bengal, India, which have abolished the system of rote learning. Instead, she aims to teach the children what she calls literary reading, aiming for "the move from rote to comprehension"[4] . She believes that education entails the ability to comprehend the world self-reliantly. That is why the humanities play an important role for her approach. What is characteristic for the humanities according to Spivak, is, that there is no right or wrong. There are many paths to finding the truth, and in most cases, there is no truth at all. A poem can be read in several ways. There is no right or wrong interpretation, only a well or poorly argued one. To get engaged with a text and to argue one's point of view, are the kind of skills the humanities teach us. As much as children are withheld from comprehension and from learning to argue one's own kind of comprehension, they are withheld from identifying and expressing their political interests as grownups.

What follows from Spivak's thoughts for us, the Tamil diaspora in the West, is the imperative to ask ourselves what kind of systems of rote learning we actually are exposed to. Are the jobs we do – whether we are working in offices or in factories – not some kind of rote learning as well? Doing the same thing over and over again, according to what one was told? Institutions like the Tamil Literary Garden remind us of the opportunity or even teach us the ability to comprehend the world self-reliantly. We get the chance to flee from our everyday systems of rote learning, get to practice to comprehend and to argue our own point of view on a poem or an essay we have read. In the end, this is what enables us to think politically, to express our political interest. One of these interests should be, to abolish the system of rote learning for Tamils in refugee camps and rural areas in Sri Lanka in order to enable them claiming access to human rights. The political oppression through rote learning needs to be end. Another one should be encouraging our own children to comprehend their world self-reliantly by reading out poems to them. ■



Mira Ragunathan

__Mira Ragunathan__ was born in Duisburg (Germany) and holds a B.A degree in social sciences and public law from the University of Bamberg and the University of Bielefeld (both in Germany).
She has spent part of her M.A degree in sociology at Goldsmiths College, University of London (UK), focusing on postcolonial studies. Currently, she is writing her M.A thesis in which she reconsiders Hannah Ahrendt's claim of 'The End of the Rights of Men.'

1 Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (2004): Righting Wrongs. The South Atlantic Quarterly 103 (2/3): 523-581.

2 ibid.: 562.

3 For more information on Spivak's school projects see: http://news.columbia.edu/global/3007.

4 Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (2004): Righting Wrongs. The South Atlantic Quarterly 103 (2/3): 562.



"Plant a Tree Plant Your Future"



Extensive environmental protection and conservation is an integral part of creating a healthy society. As Tamil Canadians we understand the importance of a healthy environment, and the benefits it brings to us and our surroundings. A great way to improve the health of the environment is by planting trees. Planting trees help reduce pollution, improve our surroundings & acts as habitat for wildlife. Trees also help clean the air by absorbing odors and pollutant gases such as nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and ozone. They also act as source of food for not only humans but for birds & wildlife as well.



As part of our commitment to preserving the environment & giving back to the community, Canadian Tamil Congress planned its 3rd annual Tree planting event in October. This year CTC joined hands with Center for Leadership and Innovation (CFLI) to organize this event. Despite the pouring rain, over 60 volunteers of all ages came out to help plant 320 trees of 9 different native species at the Bob Hunter Memorial Park.

Rouge Park & Parks Canada played a big part in making this event successful. They provided the trees as well as team member who helped demonstrate the correct way to plant trees and answered any questions from the volunteers. Rouge Park is soon to become Canada's first ever National Urban Park as part of the Parks Canada family. Learn more at www.rougepark.com.

The General Manager of Rouge Park, Mike Bender has commended on the efforts & enthusiasm of the volunteers and said it was one of the best days in the park this year. "The Canadian Tamil Congress and the Centre for Leadership and Innovation were amazing volunteers who worked incredibly hard to help build the park and they had lots of fun doing it. These groups of people included a great mix of youth and adults, who gathered in some steady rain on a cool fall day and they did an incredible job of planting. Thanks very much and we look forward to seeing you again in the park."



CTC & CLFI remains committed to contributing towards a healthier environment. By helping to build a healthy environment today, we are helping to create a healthier future for generations to come. ■



Prayalini Sathanantham

Prayalini Sathanantham *is a Certified Management Account and also holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Windsor. She is a tireless CTC volunteer.*

தமிழர் திருநாள் வாழ்த்துக்கள்

Best Wishes from

Dr. Kamini Manokaran, MD

Rheumatologist

1371 Neilson Road, Suite 303, Scarborough, ON, M1B 4Z8

(Located on Neilson Road, at McLevin)

Phone: (647) 347 2401 Fax: (647) 347 2801

Appointments can be scheduled through Family Physicians

மூட்டியல் வைத்திய நிபுணர் காமினி மனோகரன்//

மூட்டு/வாதம்/(Rheumatoid Arthritis),/மூட்டு தேய்வு/(Osteoarthritis),//

தோலங்க/அழிநோய்/(Systemic Lupus Erythematosis),/தசை அழற்சி/(Myositis),/

இரத்தக்குழாய் அழற்சி/(Vasculitis),/என்பு மென்மையாதல் /(Osteoporosis),/

தோள்மூட்டு சவ்வு அழல்/கிழிவு/(Rotator Cuff Tendonitis/Tear)///

போன்ற நோய்களுக்கான சிகிச்சைகளை வழங்கி வருகிறார்./அவரின்/சேவையைப்/

பெறவிரும்பினால், உங்கள் குடும்ப வைத்தியரினூடாக//

அவரை/தொடர்பு//கொள்ளவும்.//

தொலைபேசி இலக்கம்:/(647)/347/2401///தொலைநகல் இலக்கம்:/(647)/347/2801/

Smt Nirothini Pararajasingam



"Natya Ratna" Smt. Nirothini Pararajasingam, an accomplished Indian classical dance performer,Founder ,Artistic Director choreographer and teacher who strongly believes in promoting values of Indian culture through Bharathanatyam. In 1990, she initiated Nirthya Kalanjali Academy of Fine Arts and in 2009 launched Niro Dance Creations , a fusion of international dance forms, in Toronto, In 2009, she received the Lieutenant Governor Award. Overall, she is a creative choreographer who has successfully produced several programs and received numerous awards.

Invocation Dance-Tribute to SUN GOD

This classical dance represents our prayers to Sun God as found in Tamil Litrature 'Silapathikaaram'. The traditional cultural value and heritage of the first celebrations of Tamil begins with offering prayer and tribute to the SUN GOD & agriculture during the first day of Tamil Month 'THAI' found in ancient Tamil Litrature SILAPATHIGAARAM - By Ilangovadigal. His poetic lines ' Gnayiru Pottruthum - Gnayiru Pottruthum' praises Sun God associating the good harvest with the help of farmers.

Participants:
Swetha Pararajasingam
Abina Nimalraj
Kalvini Ponniah
Sharmira Karunagopal
Nila Thayanathan

Contemporary Fusion

This fusion performance consists of various styles of dance incorporated under AR. Rahman's beautiful rhythmic patterns bringing many styles into one.



Participants:
Abina Nimalraj
Kalvini Ponniah
Sharmira Karunagopal
Aarthy Premachandran
Shalini Manivannan
Piramya Srikanthanathan


DR. ILLANGO & ASSOCIATES
ORTHODONTICS, ORAL SURGERY, IMPLANT
Dental Office
BRACE FOR A GREAT SMILE
SCARBOROUGH
3852 Finch Ave. East,
Suite 204 & 303
Scarborough, ON.
Tel: 416 292 7004
New Location
BRAMPTON / MISSISSAUGA
7920 Hurontario St.,
Unit 37
Brampton, ON
Tel: 905 457 1700



JRS College
of Business and Health Care Inc.

"Committed to Providing Quality Training"

DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

- Community Service Worker (45 Weeks)
- Pharmacy Assistant (46 Weeks)
- Personal Support Worker (24 Weeks)
- Accounting &Payroll Administration (45 Weeks)
- Early Childcare Assistant (36 Weeks)
- Health Office Administrator (40 Weeks)
- Computerized Accounting (24 Weeks)
- Office Assistant (16 Weeks)
- Accounting & Payroll Administration -Part time (50 Weeks)
- Personal Support Worker - Part time (35 Weeks)

We offer Free Computer Basic Class Every Month.

CERTIFICATE COURSES

- Bank Teller
- Simply Accounting
- Ms Office
- QuickBooks
- Food Service Worker
- Payroll
- Food Handler
- Accpac
- Business Communication
- Cashier
- Bank Teller

Contact Info
(Midland & Finch)
330-4168 Finch Avenue East
Scarborough, ON M1S 5H6
416-292-2455

(Registered as a Private Career College under the Private Career Colleges Act 2005.)

Human Rights: My View

What are human rights? On a basic level, every single person is entitled to fundamental rights – mostly due to the fact that they are human beings. This is not a privilege because a privilege can be taken away from you at any time. Instead, these are called rights, because they should not be taken away from you under any circumstance. We have rights to protect people from others who want to hurt you in any way. We have rights so people will get along with each other and have peace within themselves and those we interact with. Rights exist in various forms including natural rights or legal rights, in regional, national and international law.

In the ancient world, traditional societies have mostly had elaborate systems of duties like conceptions of justice, political legitimacy, and human flourishing that sought to realize human dignity, and flourishing. Human rights were developed during the early Moderate period next to the European secularization of Judeo-Christian ethics. Most people know that concepts of human rights evolved in the West and at the same time earlier cultures had important ethical concepts, but they lacked a concept of human rights.



Here's one example of society going against human rights. Earlier on, women weren't allowed to vote and that was too far against human rights. Women have the same amount of rights as men do right? If you think yes, then why do you think that people thought that when they actually made it a law that women could not even be allowed to vote? Well here's your answer. It all started here; Ancient Greece. The ancient Greeks were the first ones to invent democracy and because of that, they decided that it was forbidden for women to ever vote because politics were mainly a masculine business. Aristotle, a Greek philosopher, thought that women were a secondary group of people that were fit to be ruled by men and a great mass of ancient Greeks agreed with him.

Another example of society going against human rights is slavery. Slavery had been going on from as early as the 1600s. Slavery is basically a business under which people are to be owned, bought, sold, and are forced to work.

There were very big people who went against them and stopped them forever and made peace with society. Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) was probably the world's most well-known women's rights activists in world history. She was one of the reasons that women were allowed to vote because she stood up for women's rights with campaigns and speeches. Then, there's Harriet Tubman; she wanted to end slavery once and for all because she knew what it was like to be suffering all day, out in the sun, and she was tired of seeing slaves get beat to death because they collapsed or just tried to run away. Whenever a slave ran away, the owner would send men to go find them and kill them. That was a very wrong thing to do and because of that, Harriet wanted to take a stand.



Harrishan Rajakumar

*13 year old **Harrishan Rajakumar** is a Gr 8 student at Zion Heights Junior High School, and a White band member of the Youth Leadership Program conducted by Centre for Leadership and Innovation.*

Humans have to have rights and in these cases, the people that go against those rights shouldn't even get to have a single right and they will know how it feels. Every human should have a right, and together they will fight! ■



Renewed Hope for Tamils

The year 2013 had been an important eventful year for Tamils in Sri Lanka. Madam Navi Pillai's visit to Mullivaikal was the pivotal moment in our history that turned the tide in favour of Ealam Tamils. Let's welcome the year 2014 with renewed hope and optimism.

Teachings of Jesus Christ spread around the world only after his death, and then Christianity became an established global religion. The world mourned the passing of Mr. Mandela, the icon of forgiveness and reconciliation in a post second world war political conflict. His message of reconciliation is reverberating globally much effectively now than when he was alive. "What have I done with the lessons I learnt from Mr. Mandela?" asked President Obama, in his speech at Mr. Mandela's memorial service. As he walked up to the podium to deliver his speech, he shook hands with the president of Cuba, His Excellency Rahul Castro. It was indeed a powerful gesture of tribute to his mentor Mr. Mandela.

The question was meant for all the political leaders who were in attendance including Sri Lanka's president. Tamils, had been hoodwinked by the dust-collector LLRC report compiled by the government. To begin a genuine reconciliation process, His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapakse, has to put an end to the war victory celebration year after year. And Tamils should not be denied the right to remember their own lost souls.

A war is a destructive and horrific event, so, what is there to celebrate about? Canada and its allies commemorate November 11th of every year as a "Remembrance Day" in order to instil the message of "never again" in the minds of younger citizens of their country. South African eminent personality and Nobel Prize winner, Bishop Desmond Tutu, once replied to a CBC journalist when asked as how he could forgive the oppressors of his people? "We forgave but not forgot, because we don't want to do the same unto others" he said.

TNA's clean sweep of Northern Provincial council elections, followed by the Commonwealth leaders conference and the historic visit by British Prime Minister to the North underlines that for our people there is no turning back in the New Year 2014.

We Canadian Tamils have been with our fellow Tamils in Sri Lanka, during their darkest days, but our job is not over yet! Popular American TV personality Oprah Winfrey, once told her own African-American people: "excel to rise above discrimination." In the USA the American dreams are achievable, but in Sri Lanka, our people need help, especially the young Tamils to excel in the field of education. ■



Samuel Lawrence

__Samuel Lawrence__ came to Canada in 1977 and was one of the founding member of the Ealam Tamil Association of Alberta. He also served as spokesperson for CTC's Ottawa chapter.


SHEAN SINNARAJAH
REAL ESTATE BROKER
RE/MAX
RE/MAX VISION
REALTY INC.
COMMERCIAL
INVESTMENT
REAL ESTATE
Your Satisfaction
Is My Reputation
DIRECT: 416-882-0118
BUS.: 416-321-2228
sheansinna@gmail.com | ssinna@trebnet.com
WWW.THEVISIONTEAM.CA

In Time of Scarcity

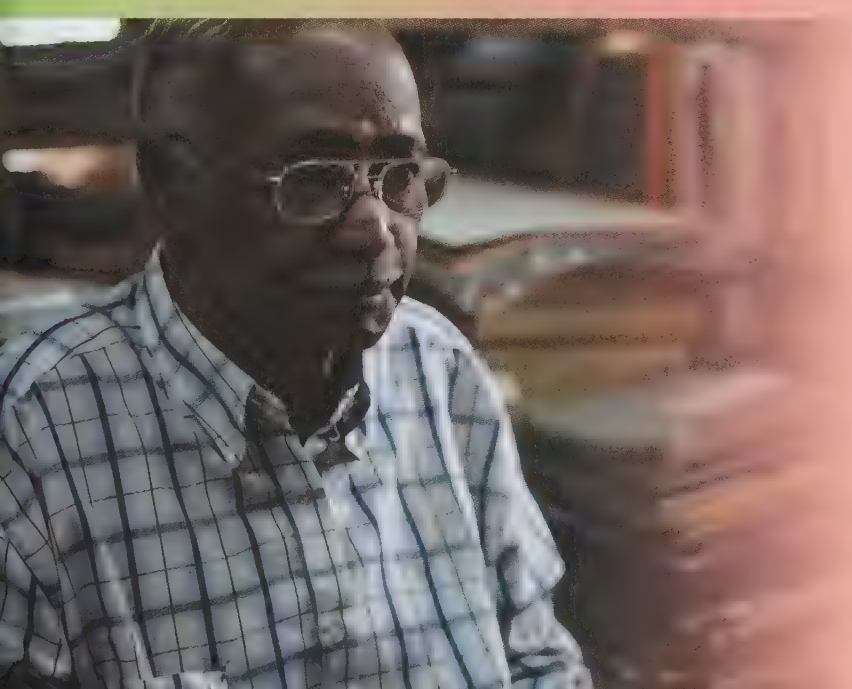
Kannan Arunasalam

In the veranda of the large courtyard house in Jaffna sat the 84-year-old Mrs Subramanium, who has worked as a secretary at Uthayan, Jaffna's most popular newspaper, for the past 17 years. I had arrived early for my appointment with Uthayan's editor, so Mrs Subramanium gave me a quick tour of the offices. Large archaic machines rattled as the newspaper went to press.

Mrs Subramanium was a one-woman hive of activity. Even at the end of the day, her starched sari was crisply in place, and there was a neatness and compressed energy in her movements. Our conversation was interspersed with her manning the phones and typing up letters. We spoke about the newspaper's painful history with violence. 'We have been going through a really terrible period,' she said. 'Because we had to undergo problems from the LTTE, EPDP [Eelam People's Democratic Party), then TELO (Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation) … Not only that, we also had to undergo problems from the army.'

The media has long been a target of intimidation and violence in Sri Lanka, and this has been especially so for the Jaffna press. On 2 May 2006, unidentified armed men stormed the Uthayan offices and shot and killed Rajaratnam Ranjit, a 25-year-old employee, as well as the marketing manager, Bastian Sagayathas. For their safety, a policeman at the gate now provides round-the-clock security, but Mrs Subramanium is not impressed. 'Even if the police is here, if somebody wants to do something – somebody wants to throw a grenade, he will do it because he is determined to do it. Police will only shoot at him after he leaves the place!'

On my way to the office of Mr Kanamylnathan, the editor, I passed a wall with photographs and newspaper clippings of the two killed staff members. As a tribute, the bullet holes had not been plastered over – a reminder that the threat of violence still loomed large. For the last five years, Kanamylnathan had not left his office, even though the war ended in May 2009. He feels it is unsafe for him to venture out of the office compound and lives here with his wife. Kanamylnathan fears that there might be another attempt on his life. He was badly injured after what he believed was a hit-and-run incident in 2001 and was evacuated to Switzerland for treatment, where he has permanent residency. Despite the pleas of diasporic family members to stay away, he returned to Jaffna to his role as Uthayan's editor.



It is not only Kanamylnathan's life that is at stake, but the newspaper's very existence. During the embargoes of the 1990s, the Colombo government restricted fuel, medicines and food items reaching the north and east of Sri Lanka, fearing that these would fall into the hands of the LTTE. Eventually, the ban extended to newsprint, and Kanamylnathan's team had to be innovative in seeking out a substitute. 'We went into the market to buy any paper and printed the newspaper on that. This included cardboard, brown

See page 103


Netwings Travel Ltd
We got it all
Flights, Hotels, Cars, Cruises
Vacation Packages and Travel Insurance
416.335.5858
416.624.1290
1.877.615.5858
sales@netwingstravel.com
netwingstravel.com
3428 Sheppard Ave, East, Suite 208
Scarborough, ON, M1T 3K4
TICO # 50018364


வாழ்க வளமுடன்! வீடு வியாபாரம்
காணி வாங்கவும் விற்கவும் மற்றும்
ஆலோசனைகளுக்கும் அழையுங்கள்....
Want to Buy, Sell or Rent a Property?
We Have Clients Waiting For You!
Complete Property LISTINGS
Competitive Commission
HomeLife/Future Realty Inc.
205-7 Eastvale Dr. Markham, ON L3S 4N8
Brokerage*, Independently Owned and Operated*
Siva Velupillai
Cell: (416) 706 2323
Bus: 905 201 9977
Higher Standards Agents, Higher Results! More info: www.sivamhomes.com

Continued from page 101
paper, even [lined] paper used to make exercise books for schoolchildren,' he said, showing me the various coloured and textured papers that they had used during the ban.

The newspapers from that time were only about ten or so pages long, and mostly carried photographs of civilian casualties of war. Kanamylnathan



believes that the real reason for including newsprint in the bans was to curb the functioning of papers such as Uthayan, which was openly critical of the government. 'When they are not bothered about the essential items of a common man, do you think they are bothered about newsprint?' he said. 'They don't want a newspaper to come out from Jaffna!'

New environment

I left Uthayan thinking how remarkable these stories of resilience were. Both Kanamylnathan and Mrs Subramanium have neither resources nor family connections, but they are committed to stay. So, I returned to make Paper, a short film about the story of Uthayan overcoming scarcity and violence to deliver news to the people of Jaffna. But as I discovered on my return visits, people such as Kanamylnathan and Mrs Subramanium were not unique. Circumstances of the times brought out courage and innovation in surprising ways.

J Jegatheeswaran, or 'Esan', a 50-year-old taxi driver, drove me around Jaffna. 'No petrol, no batteries. There was nothing,' the usually quiet and composed Esan said as he described the situation in Jaffna during the embargoes, echoing what Kanamylnathan had said. He became the inspiration for my second video portrait, Kerosene. Curfews were strictly enforced and without petrol, batteries or spare parts, driving taxis, or for that matter any car, was a real challenge. But then man adapted his machine to the new environment. Coconut oil, or illupennai, widely found in Jaffna, replaced engine oil, and kerosene was used instead of petrol.

Even so, not all cars could be converted. It was only the old British makes, such as the Morris Oxford and Austin Cambridge, that could be modified to run on kerosene. These older cars could even use spare parts fashioned out of scrap iron, and so could travel where the newer Japanese cars were not able to go. Esan and his trusty Morris Oxford had once taken 20 people to safety. 'My Morris Oxford was the only car running in the area,' he said. 'In the nights I had to drive the sick and take the women in labour to the hospital. It was difficult those days.'

These stories of everyday, utilitarian aspects of a survivor's life are in fact narratives that drive home the nature and experience of war. My films, supported by Groundviews, a 'citizen journalism' website, were all shot in Jaffna, where the current political climate and restrictions on the media made filming a challenge. So I decided to use a smaller camera and a 'guerrilla'-style approach to filmmaking, keeping a low profile. My visits to Jaffna, over a three-month period, were serendipitous – the mechanic who pioneered the conversion of engines to run on kerosene worked next door to the house where I stayed, so I was able to visit his garage often and film him at work.

When I first met Mrs Subramanium, she had told me that death comes only once, not twice. I have heard that sentiment repeatedly in Jaffna. At its core is an acceptance of the dangers that comes from living in a conflict zone, and a deep-rooted conviction to remain there. Despite the fear and insecurity that led others to emigrate to join the growing Tamil diaspora, they chose to remain. I was born in Jaffna but grew up in England, since the age of six. So for me, my journey in making these video portraits felt almost like a tribute to those who continue to dedicate their lives to Jaffna when so many others have left for safe havens abroad. ■

***Kannan Arunasalam** is an award winning documentary filmmaker and narrative journalist. He was born in Jaffna, grew up in England, and returned to Sri Lanka in 2005. His work has appeared in The New Yorker, The Guardian and broadcast on Aljazeera English. His latest documentary short The Story of One was awarded the Manuel Rivera-Ortiz Foundation grant prize for best documentary, 2013.*

The article was originally published August 2011 in Himalmag.com. Reprinted with permission.

Benjamin Moore

இனிய தைப்பொங்கல் வாழ்த்துக்கள்

Serendib Paints & Décor
4900 Sheppard Ave East
Scarborough, ON M1S 4A7

Scarborough Paint Centre
2934 Eglinton Ave East
Scarborough, ON M1K 2S2

Ajax Paint Centre
12 Harwood Ave South
Ajax, ON L1S 7L8

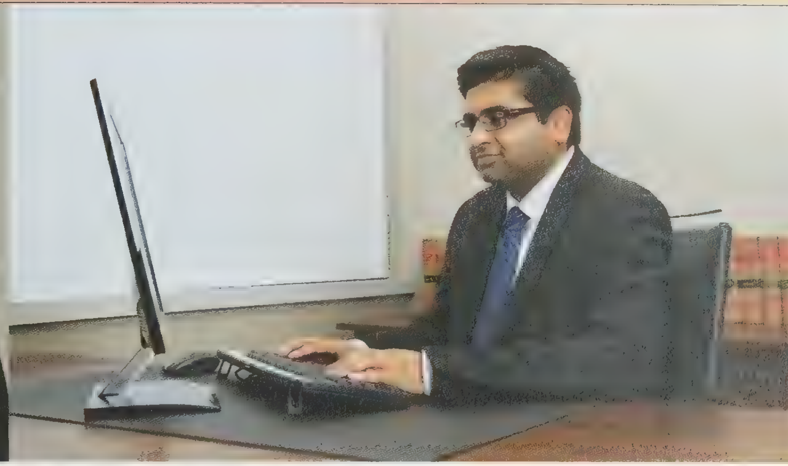
416-913-3396

www.serendibpaints.com



Benjamin Moore®
For everything that matters™.





Your future is our motivation.

At Oatley, Vigmond, personal injury law is all we do. We are driven to deliver the best legal representation to ensure your future is secure. We are here to support you - from our first meeting right through the entire legal process. If English isn't your first language, we have members of our team that are fluent in Tamil. This will ensure that we are able to communicate in a way that you are most comfortable. Ultimately, we are here to ensure your case is taken care of with expertise, dedication and compassion.

Contact Shenthuran to learn how we can help you.

Shenthuran Subramaniam, B.Sc., M.B.A., J.D.
செந்தூரன் சுப்பிரமணியம்
Personal Injury Lawyer

647.992.2417 or 416.225.6550
ssubramaniam@oatleyvigmond.com

Oatley, Vigmond
Personal Injury Lawyers LLP

Ontario's Personal Injury Law Firm

Serving clients across Ontario with offices in Toronto, Barrie, Hamilton, Sudbury & North Bay

1.888.662.2481
www.oatleyvigmond.com

Proud Member



If you get sick,
you get paid.
If you don't get sick,
you get paid back.

Why Life's brighter with Sun Critical Illness Insurance

- Helps pay your mortgage and other regular expenses while you take the time you need to recover.
- More control over treatment options and ongoing care, including access to services to help you through the medical maze.
- Serious illnesses do happen – but your premiums can be returned if you don't make a claim.

Today is a good day to learn more, so let's talk.



Ajith Sabaratnam
Bus 416-439-2800
Cell 647-401-5800
ajith.sabaratnam@sunlife.com
www.sunlife.ca/ajith.sabaratnam

Sun Life Financial

She Found a Home

I met her on a sunny afternoon in Trincomalee after lunch. We had lunch together but she sat among the other young girls. They ate quietly but quickly as though they knew that the rest of the day would be unforgettable. She handed my family and I bananas after a delicious serving of vegetables curries and string hoppers. Once the plates and banana leaves were collected by a few of the other young girls and boys, we patiently waited for the teacher.

"She called me, Amma. Most of the children here call me that."



The teacher embodied a kind of strength that was full of kindness and clarity. Everything she did for the children was because she cared for their overall well-being. She was preparing them to not only survive in the real world but to excel.

In perfect silence the children did suriya namasakaram. Then at the teacher's request, they sang, danced and performed a witty drama. The drama was about a rich man and his servant who had difficulty hearing. The rich man, played by one of the girls, directs his servant who is also played by one of the girls, to fulfil certain duties by the time he arrives with this son who is on his way from Canada. When the servant mixes up his duties we all laughed from our guts.

The servant was played by Shanthy, a multi-talented girl who aspires to be a Tamil teacher one day.

"She grabbed my hand when she called me Amma. That moment I knew there was something special about this girl." The teacher explained.

"She used to beg for money. One day, she fell asleep on a bus. And after 6 hours the bus brought her here."

Shanthy thanked us on behalf of the children for spending the day with them. She expressed it as though they have gained something. But truly, we gained far more. When the children gathered around us, they asked us if we would dance, sing or recite a poem. I was reluctant to and emphasized my inability to sing.

"Acca, put your fear aside." They said.

"We were all scared to dance and sing at first but we learned through our teacher that there is nothing to be scared of. You can do anything."

It was amazing to witness the many talents of the children. Shanthy wasn't too different from the rest of the children who either did not have parents or had parents who were incapable of taking care of them. She stood out because of her story and because of the way she encouraged other children.

"I hope she will take over this place. I know she'll do an excellent job."



My family and I walked away knowing that we will visit again. And I hoped that I will see Shanthy aas a teacher at Sivanantha Thapovanam. ■

Dela Muhundarajah

Dela Muhundarajah *is a volunteer with CTC and recently visited her birth place of Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.*



RE/MAX® sells a home every 2 minutes*
Choose wisely. Choose RE/MAX®
RE/MAX® COMMUNITY
Realty Inc., Brokerage
Independently owned and operated
203-1265 Morningside Ave East
Toronto, ON. M1B 3V9
Tel: 416-287-2222
recruiting@remaxcommunity.ca
www.remaxcommunity.ca
Logan Velumailum
Broker of Record
416-500-7965
Rajeef Koneswaran
Broker
416-568-1078
*Based on data from RE/MAX and CREA

Mental Health and Canada's Tamil Community

In the Tamil community, one often associates individuals suffering from mental health issues with the word "veesar" (crazy). However, mental illness is a complex issue that takes many different forms. This makes it especially difficult to pinpoint a specific definition. Mental health affects various different facets of one's life such as how we think, how we act, and how we integrate with our families and society. At times, individuals may not even know they are suffering from a mental illness, or may refuse to acknowledge this issue.

We all have bad days and it is easy for someone to be upset over something. However, for people who are experiencing a very common mental illness like depression, a 'bad day' could be



very difficult to experience. Symptoms of depression can include but are not limited to isolation, sudden change in behavior, holding back or becoming less socially active, eating disorders and sleeping disorders. Another difference between being upset and serious depression is the longevity and severity of the changes. Unfortunately, these issues are often deemed taboo and are not openly talked about within the Tamil-Canadian community.

Schizophrenia is a mental illness that has symptoms including auditory and visual hallucinations, paranoia about people on TV talking directly to them, and a strong belief in things that are false. For example, someone can strongly believe that they are God and will try to convince others as well. However, nothing anyone says can deter him or her from this thought process.
Anxiety is also a common mental health issue and deals with fear. Anxiety sufferers are prone to being afraid of large crowds and public transport.
In essence anything, anyone and any circumstances can potentially be frightening to them. This particular mental health issue was brought to the Tamil community's attention through the movie Thenali staring Kamal Hassan. Kamal Hassan played the character Thenali, a man who suffers from irrational phobias thereby limiting his ability to lead a normal life.

Panic disorders and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is also another common mental illness. Many individuals in the Tamil-Canadian community suffer from PTSD as a result of experiencing war in Sri Lanka. PTSD can last up to 10-15 years after someone has experienced a traumatic event. PTSD can also be developed through sub-conscious means such as seeing, smelling, hearing something can trigger flashbacks which can lead to PTSD issues.
Media portrayals of mental health are

See page 113



Meeraah Mahaan

Meeraah Mahaan *is a member of the Communications Commitee of CANTYD, a non-profit organization dedicated to youth empowerment in the Tamil-Canadian community*

Continued from page 111

also problematic. The media often only talks about mental health and mental issues when things go wrong, such as suicides. However, the media fails to address the mental health issues of those living seemingly normal healthy lives. Movies and television have a tendency to exaggerate mental health issues into inaccurate perceptions of mental health issues, further confusing the public and fuelling more stereotypes.

Unfortunately, it is common for Tamils to shun an entire family when one member of the family has been identified with a mental health disorder or issue. This has a serious effect because it limits a family's ability to seek appropriate help and puts an emotional strain on the family due to isolation. If one member of a family has been diagnosed with a mental illness, the rest of the family may also be affected. This false accusation is detrimental to the community and only festers negative stigma.

Although the Tamil-Canadian community has become more 'Westernized', certain traditions revolving around mental illness are still very much deep rooted. Many believe that mental health issues can be addressed through prayer or by going to the temple to do a "pooja". Although exploring holistic treatments and having a balance of medication and meditation is beneficial, it is important to seek proper medical attention as well.

It is important to realize that mental illness affects everyone regardless of age, gender, race or creed. Mental illness should not be ridiculed or taken light-heartedly. It deserves the utmost respect as it may even affect one's own circle of family and friends.

*As part of its commitment to community outreach, CanTYD hosts monthly Community Forum to discuss various issues of importance to the Tamil Canadian Community. The above noted observations were made during an especially thought-provoking discussion on June 11th, 2013, concerning perceptions of mental health and Canada's Tamil community. CanTYD staff, youth and parents took part in this discussion to exchange perspectives on this issue. ■


IDEAL STAIRS
Manufacturers & Installers of SOLID Wood Products
Change Your Carpeted Steps
to SOLID OAK Steps in under 3 days
416.613.1919
or Visit our Showroom
4800 Sheppard Avenue East, Unit 123
Ask about our $500.00 Discount*
www.idealstairs.ca
Visit our website for customer testimonials
Before
After
* Offer Expires February 28th.

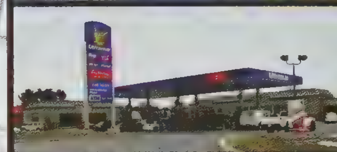


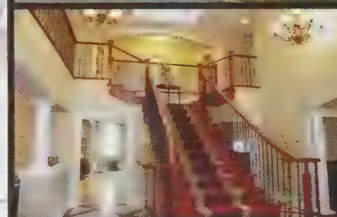
PLANNING & BUILDING CONSULTANTS

BUILDING PERMITS

DESIGN + BUILD









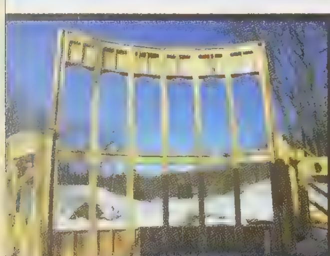


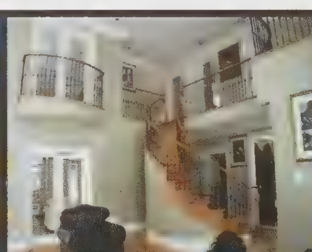


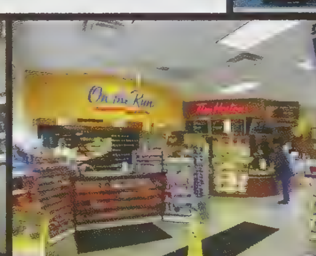
- Complete Plaza Design & Permit Approval
- Re-zonning & Official Plan Amendment
- Site Plan Approval & Committee of Adjustment
- New Unit Finish & Renovation Permits
- Custom Home Designs & Additions
- Automobile Centre & Gas Stations
- Construction Management

Yaso Somalingam B.Sc (BE)Arch.
Ontario Ministry Licensed

Kam Sedani, MAATO, BCQ
Ontario Ministry Licensed









CANTAM group LTD.

Tel: 416-335-3353
Yaso Cell: 416-854-2485
Kam Cell: 416-561-0733

yaso@cantamgroup.com
kam@cantamgroup.com

www.cantamgroup.com





Over 20 years of professional service with full time commitment.

Nelson Mandela The Freedom Fighter

On July 18th, 1918 in a small village in the Transkei countryside of South Africa, a baby boy was born in the Tembu royal house. The baby grew, year after year molding into a man, role model and a great leader of South Africa, Nelson Mandela.

After his education, Nelson Mandela moved to Johannesburg where he got a job in a law office. Traveling to and from the office was expensive for 'blacks', so Mandela along with 10,000 other blacks protested and boycotted the buses for six days resulting in the



fare to be lowered. Nelson Mandela that day joined the African National Congress (ANC) which was founded to fight against white leaders. This was the beginning of Mandela's journey. As time went on the ANC mission changed into the fight against racism, freedom and equality.

During the 'May Day' protest of 1950 (when more than half black workers went on strike) while Mandela was walking home at night he witnessed policemen beating people with nightsticks and shooting them. That day changed Mandela forever and from that point on he organized several protests, the most memorable one was the 'Defiance Campaign' in June 1952. This campaign was created to eliminate the laws against blacks. On June 22nd, Nelson Mandela gave a speech in front of 10,000 people, his great speech ignited hope into listeners' hearts that one day South Africa would be united and free. During this campaign Mandela, other ANC leaders and protesters were put in jail for two days.

After being released from prison, Mandela plan was to combine Africans and any other political party or race to fight back against the government. This plan was called the 'Freedom Charter.' Thousands attended the Freedom Charter read aloud.

On June 26th, 1955 the final document of the Freedom Charter was presented to the Congress of People. This day became 'Freedom Day' in South Africa. However, the issue kept on getting worse, as the government was tightening the laws against blacks at a rapid speed.

In September 1955, he went back home, after being away for 15 years. There he, was arrested for high treason and put into jail. This trial went on for five years and during the course, Mandela's first wife had left him and he married another lady, Winnie. During this period another group called Pan-Africanist Congress was starting to rise. The ANC and PAC were competitors, but believed in the same thing. Mandela finally got his verdict, that he was not guilty.

Released from the jail, Mandela traveled everywhere in South Africa under the radar and also out of the country to gather supporters. He traveled to Tanzania, Ghana; Morocco; where he learned guerilla warfare tactics, London and also Ethiopia to have arms training. When he arrived back in South Africa, he met with the ANC, but on his way back to his house he was stopped



Anithan Ilangko

and taken to a police station. He had yet another trial and found guilty of leaving the country with no passport and encouraging workers to strike and as a consequence he was sentenced 5-year imprisonment.

See page 119



Continued from page 117

During Nelson Mandela's time in jail, another group just like ANC and PAC were emerging led by a man named Steve Biko. Biko lead many protests while Mandela was in jail. Mandela's wife, Winnie was part of a few of the protests. In 1979, Mandela won the Nehru Award for 'International Understanding.' The 1980's were a violent time in South Africa, many people died and many more were injured, but during this time support for Nelson Mandela was finally becoming worldwide. London was a huge support as well even though the past years were behind the government.

During 1989, the president Botha had a stroke and left office. F. W. de Klerk took this position and this was one of the turning points in the journey to freedom. President Klerk knew apartheid (a former social system in South Africa in which black people and people from other racial groups did not have the same political and economic rights as white people and were forced to live separately from white people-Merriam Webster) could not continue. In October 1989, seven fellow prisoners were released for no certain reasons one being Sisulu. This was a sign, of the end of apartheid.

On February 2nd, 1990, President Klerk entered parliament knowing today he would set the new foundation of a democratic South Africa. Also that day all life sentences were lifted and all political leaders were freed including Mandela. On February 11th, 1990, Nelson Mandela was free and that day he said one of the most memorable speeches in front of 100,000 people. Mandela traveled across the world celebrating the new South Africa. Sadly, violence was still a problem in South Africa and Mandela along with members of the ANC continued to discuss solutions to the problem with the government. President Klerk and Nelson Mandela decided to have an election to vote in a whole new constitution. This decision won both Klerk and Nelson the 'Nobel Prize' in December of 1993.

April 27th, 1994, was the Election Day. The parties were led by Klerk of course and the opposition was the ANC, led by Mandela. It was very tough campaigning because many citizens didn't know how to read or write. The ANC trained 100,000 people to talk to these citizens and it all worked out in the end. Nelson Mandela was elected as the president of South Africa.

Five years had come and gone and Mandela decided to end his presidency but this was not enough for him. Mandela continued to be part of the change not only in his country but across the world. Mandela worked hard and fought against HIV/Aids in his final stretch of his life. And that is what we salute him for, his hard work, inspiration and optimism. We will cherish him for all the work he has done to end apartheid in South Africa and he will be remembered for centuries to come. ■

__Ahillan Ilangko__ is a grade nine student at Bill Crothers Secondary School and a Green Band member of the Youth Leadership program conducted by The Center for Leadership and Innovation.

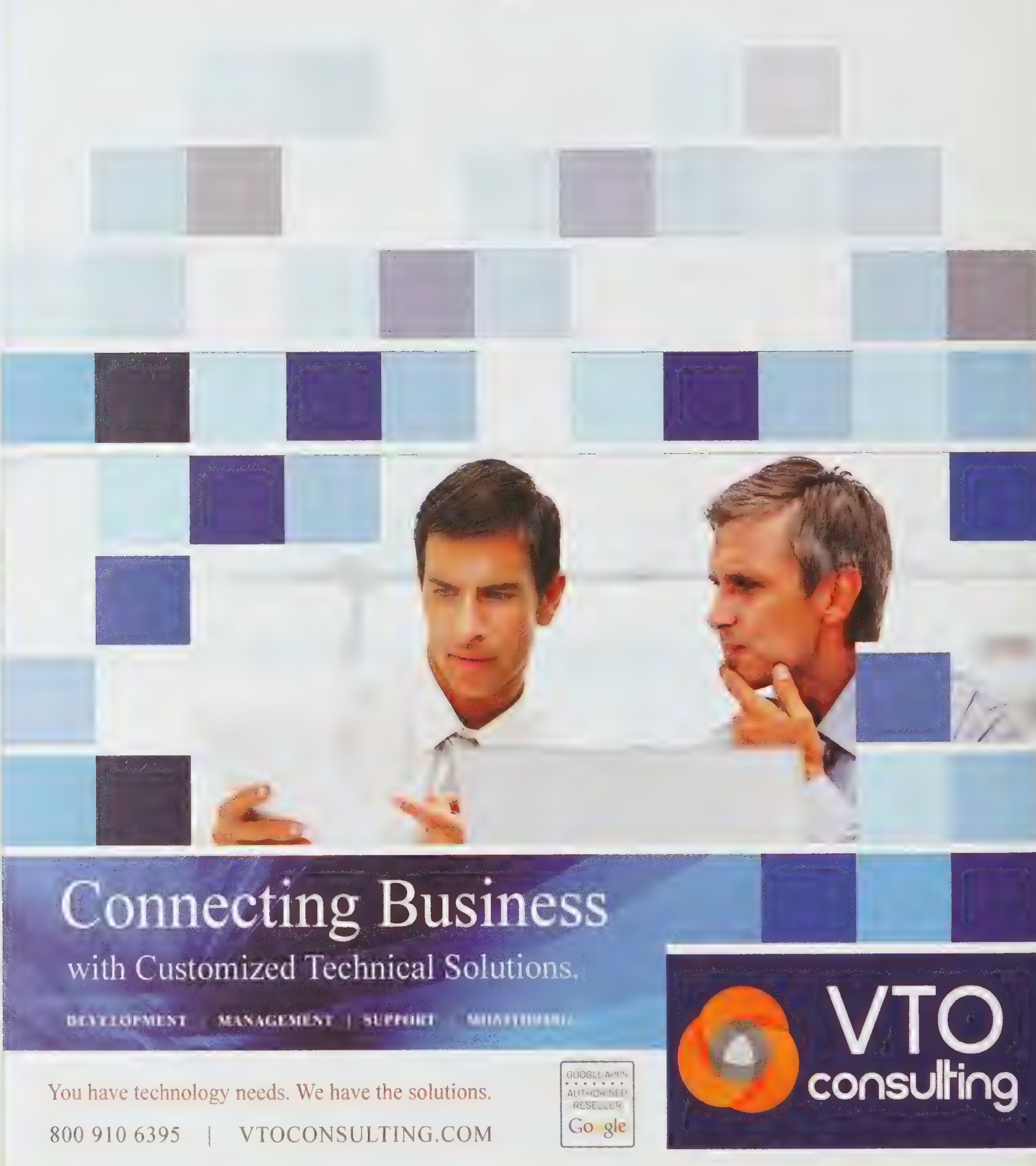
உளம் மகிழ்ந்து வளம் செழிக்க
தைத்திருநாள் வாழ்த்துக்கள்.

With Best Compliments From

PETRO-CANADA

Selvadurai Thanaraj
416-726-8569

Live streaming of this gala dinner is brought to you by...



சுந்தரி

சுனீலா அபயசேகர 1952-2013



இருபத்தாறு ஆண்டுகள் ஆயின.

நம் முதல் சந்திப்பு நிகழ்ந்தது
கொழும்புக்கு மேற்கே ஒரு கடற்கரை வீட்டில்

அதன் வேலிகளுக்கு அப்பால்
தாழை. அடம்பன் கொடி.
அச்சமும் நாணமும் சூழ்ந்தாலும்
மோகக் கிறக்கத்தில் நடுங்கும் காதலர்கள்.
அலைகளின் ஓயாத முறையீடு.

உயிர் தப்பி நிலம் விட்டுப் பறக்கிற
அவசரமும் அவலமும் இருவருக்கும்

நமது அறச்சீற்றத்தின் தீப்பொறி
கடலில் வரைந்த நேர்கோட்டில் நடந்து
திசை பிறழாது தப்பித்து
ஹேக் பட்டினத்துக்கு வந்தபோது
காலைச் சூரியனும் மாலைச் சூரியனும்
ஒன்றென ஒளிர்ந்த காலம்

“கொளுஹதவத்தின் துன்வெனியாமட்ட” என
இசையே என் தாலாட்டு

உனக்கு சுபா பிறந்தபோது
அவளது அழுகையைக் கேட்டேன்
உனது கண்ணீரைப் பார்த்தேன்

நிலத்தையும் காலத்தையும் வென்ற
ஆகாயத் தாமரைகள் போல அலைந்தாலும்
சிறகுகள் வலிமை பெற்றன.

அன்பைப் பிழிந்தெடுத்த உயிர் உனக்கு
கடலும் காடும் வெளியும் எம்மைப் பிரித்திருந்தாலு
இணைக்க என எப்போதும் இருந்தன
கனவுகள்.

“மகன், என்ன ஆளையே காணோம்
குரல் கேட்க முடியவில்லை
படமாவது அனுப்பு” என
நீ அவ்வப்போது அனுப்பும் ஒரு மின்னஞ்சல்
விடுப்பார்வம் கொப்பளிக்கும்
தொலைபேசி வரிச்செய்தி.
வாழ்வோ குறுகியது

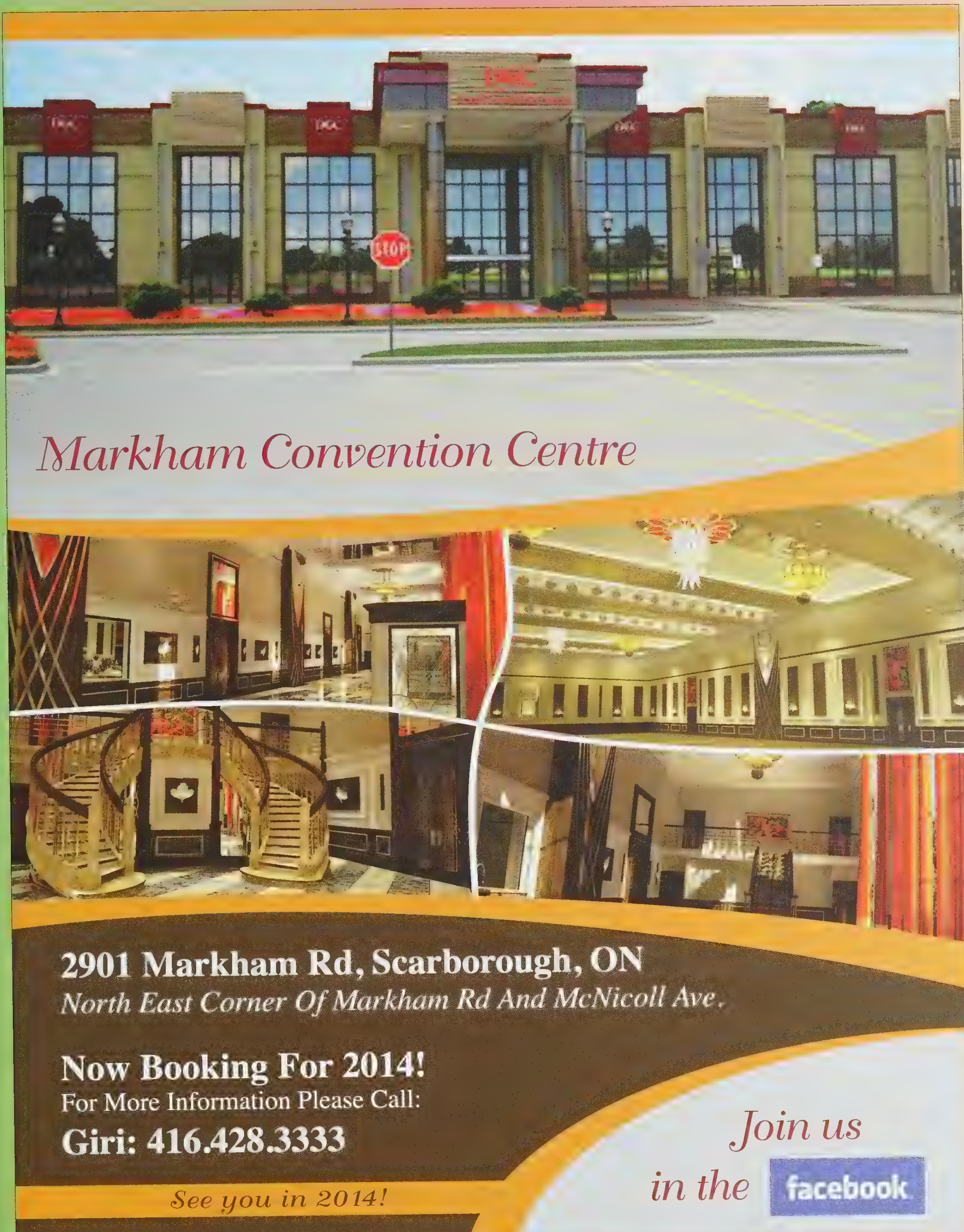
எதை அறிந்தோம்?

-நாம் தவறி வீழ்ந்த நீர்ச்சுனைகள்
காதலின் பளிங்குகள் அல்ல
கவிதையும் இசையும் சுதந்திரமும்
பிரிக்கப்பட முடியாதவை
தீயை மிதிக்கலாம்
காற்றை எதிர்க்கலாம்
வாழ்க்கையை இழக்க முடியாது-
இந்த ஆண்டு மறுபடியும்

ஹேக் நகரில் சந்தித்தபோது
நான் சொல்லாமல் சொன்னது பிரியாவிடை
உன்னிடமோ
புன்முறுவலும் ஒரு கண்ணீர்த்துளியும்.

-கவிஞர் சேரன்


"I'm Emma and Holland Bloorview gave me my life back. After I was diagnosed with Mitochondrial disease, the therapists helped me to breathe, eat, stand and even walk again. I've done so well that I'm home again with my family and back to school with my friends. I love Holland Bloorview and everything they do for me and my family."
Emma is one of thousands of children who are helped at Holland Bloorview every year. Thanks to donor support, Emma received the care she needed to learn to stand and walk again.
Help change the world for kids with disabilities. Give today.
Holland Bloorview
Hospital Foundation


Markham Convention Centre
2901 Markham Rd, Scarborough, ON
North East Corner Of Markham Rd And McNicoll Ave.
Now Booking For 2014!
For More Information Please Call:
Giri: 416.428.3333
See you in 2014!
Join us
in the
facebook



Pongal Pot

My father wakes me up in the morning
"There's some riot on the streets,
you have to leave"
"Where would I go"
"Go to a stadium"
"Why a stadium?"
"Because there'll be others and you can mingle; be invisible"
So we go, three friends
We sit on the stands, sixth level
There are thousands of others
But nothing in the middle, no arena
Just people and more people

I go out to find air
I find people handing out big stones
They say go and attack and kill
Never learnt to refuse, I take a few
They are pink and round and heavy and hard
I returned to my seat
Show the stones to my friends
Now we're worried
Unknown-ness and uneasiness form

I see a tall man show up
Everyone cheers
Us too
I somehow know him
Is he God?

Two young persons in the front row look at me
"Aren't you Tamils?"
I'm shocked. How'd they know?
"We are from the city"
"We live in a Muslim area"
"I'm mostly *your* man"
I make up reasons
To assimilate and to be part of "them"
Then I ask beggingly
"You won't tell others, right?"
He hesitates, looks at me with pity
Then says
"Yes, I will"

I whisper to my friends about this person
Who is planning to reveal our identity
We wonder what to do

They leave, few minutes after
They leave, looking at us with same pity
He points a finger
"I'm going to tell"

Seconds after they leave
We run, we run
Towards the main road
My friends run faster
Into an oblivion
I'm left alone
I run past empty streets
Shut doors
Burned cars, bicycles and shoes
Lots of shoes

People with pink big stones hanging around
But they dont stop me

I run, I run

I see a lit building to the left
There are kids playing
Happiness and cheer

Then
There is a pot on the street
In the midde
Round and red and cooked

Thinking it's a ball,
I try to kick
But it doesn't move

Suddenly flames erupt around it
Simmering rice inside
White foam boils and outwards

The children still playing
Happy and cheerful

I look up
Sky, red and burning

Something you can't take away:
My traditions
My rights to observe
My respect
My will to live
And celebrate

– Senthilan



Advertiser *Index*

Table Sponsors

- Ambika Jewelers
- Canadian Tamil Alumni Association (CTA)
- Canadian Tamil Medical Association (CTMA)
- Centre City Pharmacy & Clinic
- Centre for Leadership and Innovation (CFLI)
- Dr. C.P. Giri Dentistry
- Dr. Illango & Associates
- Dr. Mathangi Arun - Optometrist
- Edward Jones - Raj Thavaratnasingham
- Friends of Christeen Seevaratnam
- Friends of Dr. Vadivelu Santhakumar
- Friends of Kasthuri and Noel
- Friends of Meikandathevan Mohanachandran
- Friends of Minnal Senthilkumaran
- Friends of Mirriam & Timothy Ponniah
- Friends of Raveena Ratnasingam
- Genie Media Inc.
- Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation
- Innovative Detailing Services Inc.
- Jaffna Hindu College Old Boys Association
- Markham Tamil Organization (MTO)
- Print Fast
- RJ Multi Litho Inc.
- Road Runner Courier Service Inc.
- Selvadurai Thanarajah - Petro Canada
- Tamil Acadamy for the Advancement of Science (TAAS)
- Tamil National Alliance (TNA) Canada
- The Law Office of Gary Anandasangaree
- The Law Office of Nathan Sritharan
- The Law Offices of Yaso Sinnadurai
- Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE)
- United Steel Workers - District 6
- Yalini Enterprises Inc
- York Region District School Board & Friends of Juanita Nathan

Thank you!

Thank you for supporting

Canadian Tamil Congress

கனடிய தமிழர் பேரவைக்கான

உங்கள் ஆதரவுக்கு நன்றி


Voice
கனடிய தமிழர் பேரவை
CANADIAN TAMIL CONGRESS
2014